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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How much do you intend to spend on back-to-school supplies this year?

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INSIDE



TSL Donation

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation donates \$10,000 to the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

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Suicide Blast

A suicide bomber killed 61 at an Iraqi army recruitment center.

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'Remember Pakistan'

Angelina Jolie says it's vital that people not surrender to compassion fatigue.

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Audit: Fund's investment losses at \$48 million in FY2009. PAGE 2
July visitor arrivals continue to rise, up 16 percent. PAGE 3

House approves \$132M budget

» Majority kills minority attempt to stop lawmakers' budget increase, give NMC more funds



Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), left, and Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), center, prepare to leave the chamber after the House passed Basa's Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill yesterday afternoon. Also in photo is Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian).

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A \$132 million budget bill for fiscal year 2011 finally passed the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon in a dramatic session marked by frayed tempers and shouting matches that eventually boiled down to who had the most number of votes.

See HOUSE on Page 4

FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

\$13M increase in business gross revenue

» Other economic indicators also show growth

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Business gross revenue or total sales

reported by businesses went up by \$13 million or 3 percent during the first quarter of calendar year 2010 compared to the same period last year.

See INCREASE on Page 4

HOW THEY VOTED

How members of the House of Representatives voted on the budget bill, HB 17-96, HS2

YES

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan)
Rep. George Camacho (Ind-Saipan)
Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian)
Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan)
Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan)
Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota)
Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan)
Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Rota)

NO

Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan)
Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan)
Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan)
Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan)
Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan)
Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan)
Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan)

Absent (off-island)
Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan)

Source: Saipan Tribune tally

Van slams into federal courtroom

» Alleged drunk driver flees but is later arrested

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
fergie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A van being driven by an alleged drunk driver slammed into the courtroom of the

U.S. District Court for the NMI at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan Tuesday, shortly before midnight.

The driver, Young Sik Kim, 43, fled

See VAN on Page 4



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Local

Fund's investment losses at \$48 million in FY2009

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's losses last fiscal year amounted to \$47.9 million due to negative investment performance and the continued withdrawals being made by the Fund to cover shortfalls in its pension payments, based on the latest audit report performed on the agency.

The audit, performed by independent auditing firm J. Scott Magliari & Co., showed that the value of the Fund's investments at market value declined from

\$380.2 million in fiscal year 2008 to just \$332.3 million in fiscal year 2009—a net loss of \$47.9 million.

Of this amount, \$43 million was attributed to drawdowns to cover the shortfalls in funding pension obligations, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

"These shortfalls are the result of employers not paying at the actuarial determined rate," the report stated.

The Fund's investment portfolio is composed of two main asset classes—stocks and bonds—with different strategies within

each class. About 65 percent of the Fund's portfolio is invested in stocks while 25 percent is in bonds. The remaining 10 percent is in alternative investments.

The audit report noted that actual asset allocation varied throughout 2009 as the market values of investments changed daily but were kept within the ranges allowed in the investment policy statement via drawdowns.

The same audit findings showed a significant drop in the collection of employer's contributions last fiscal year.

The report indicated that employer contributions declined by about \$13 million to just \$36.3 million last fiscal year—a 26-percent drop from fiscal year 2008's \$49.3 million collection.

The decrease was attributed to

certain autonomous agencies that are paying less than the required actuarial employer contribution rate of 37.3909 percent.

Autonomous agencies include the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Youth Center, Tinian Casino Gaming Commission, and Marianas Visitors Authority.

According to the report, these agencies have been made aware of the deficient amounts and the Fund is intent on exhausting all possible means to collect all amounts due the Fund.

There was also a decrease of over \$900,000 in employee contributions in fiscal year 2009, dropping from FY 2008's \$9.4 million to FY 2009's \$8.5 million. This translates to 9-percent

reduction due to the voluntary transfer of class I defined benefit plan members to the defined contribution plan.

But if significant reductions were noted in the Fund's investment performance and employer contributions, it did well in its revenue collections, getting \$2 million more than prior estimates. Last fiscal year, the agency collected \$34 million, higher than revenue estimates of \$32.1 million.

The report indicated that this

increase was due to both the increase in contributions from the central government, in accordance with a court order to increase payment amounts.

"As a result, the [Fund] drew down less from investments to cover shortfalls in funding to sustain the operating activities of the Fund versus the budgeted projection," the report stated.

Overall, the results of the operation for the full 12 months last fiscal year were within approved budgets for FY 2009, it added.

Law sets aside 50 pct. of available Tinian public land for homesteads

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed on Tuesday a new law designating at least 50 percent

of available public land on Tinian for homesteads.

Senate Bill 17-22 or the Tinian Homestead Act of 2010 is now Public Law 17-12.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), author of the bill, said the next step is for the Department of Public Lands to conduct a survey of available public land on Tinian.

"Every year, there are people who turn 18 years old and are therefore qualified to apply for a homestead," Hofschneider said.

The U.S. Department of Defense has been leasing two-thirds of land on Tinian.

Hofschneider said the lease of such a large portion of Tinian's public land has severely hindered the homestead program on the island.

"Allocating a portion of public lands on Tinian for current and future homestead development is in the best interest of those Tinian residents who are of Northern Marianas descent. Finally, the Legislature finds that sometime in the future, there will be no lands available for allocation to the people of Tinian," the bill says.

Hofschneider's bill designates at least 50 percent of available public land on Tinian for homesteading purposes, and requires DPL to set a moratorium for accepting application for homestead program when there are no more available public lands.

Under the new law, DPL is required to identify and inventory all public lands on Tinian that are vacant, undeveloped and unfettered. DPL is required to complete this inventory by Dec. 31, 2011.

In other news, Inos informed the Legislature that the election reform bill the governor vetoed and the Legislature overrode is now Public Law 17-11.

The new statute makes CNMI election laws conform with federal standards—less than three months before the Nov. 2 delegate election.

Fitial vetoed the bill, introduced by Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), mainly due to the early voting provision that he said would allow for "voter intimidation, fraud, and would increase the cost of the election."

Demapan said a separate bill is being drafted to address the governor's concerns.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NMHC RFP 2010-009

ARCHAEOLOGICAL-CONSULTANT SERVICES

This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairwoman of the Board, is soliciting the professional services of a qualified archaeological-consultant who meets Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology pursuant to 36CFR61 for the Carolinian Cultural Center in Saipan, for the benefit of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested proposers may pick up a copy of the Scope of Work on Monday, August 9, 2010 at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, Section 3-103. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

A. Requirements

1. Qualifications and experience of the proposer (35%);
2. Knowledge of federal and local laws pertaining to the excavation and/or findings of human remains, artifacts and archaeological survey documentation as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as well as compliance to the CNMI's Historic Resources Preservation Program (35%);
3. Experience with local CNMI and regional areas with respect to archaeological issues and findings (15%);
4. Existing and/or prior client base, type of archaeological services and copy of final report related to such experience/services (15%).

B. Cost/Contingent Fee

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

On **Friday, August 13, 2010**, NMHC and HPO will conduct a pre-proposal conference at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the project requirements. All interested proposers are encouraged to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference. Site visits will be arranged by NMHC and HPO staff after the pre-proposal conference to anyone who desires an on-site visit to the project site.

Interested proposers must submit an original and four (4) copies of signed, sealed proposals marked **"NMHC RFP2010-009 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANT SERVICES"** to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, not later than **August 23, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.** Any proposals received after the above date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances, unless submitted by a proposer outside the Commonwealth and postmarked by August 23, 2010, **AND** received not later than September 3, 2010. In order to receive this additional time, proposers outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director, Procurement and Supply in writing not later than 10:00 a.m., August 23, 2010 of their intention to submit a proposal. Notice can be by e-mail to procurement@pticom.com or by fax to (670) 664-1515.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the Procurement Regulation Section 3-301 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License in order to sign a contract.

Award shall be made to the responsible offerors whose proposals are determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation. Proposals shall be subject to rejection for conflicts of interests.

All proposals submitted shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any defects in said proposals, to negotiate with all qualified offerors, or to cancel this RFP if it is in the best interest of NMHC and the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

/S/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement and Supply



NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

July visitor arrivals continue to rise, up 16 percent

July 2010 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 16 percent compared to July 2009, riding a continuing wave of increased arrivals from Japan, Korea, and China. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota totaled 35,164 visitors last month compared to 30,301 in July 2009.

Japan, the CNMI's primary market, posted another month of double-digit growth in July—a 16-percent increase to

16,596 visitors—that is largely attributed to a 6-percent increase in available air seats from Japan. There was an additional daily flight from Narita commencing in December 2009 that was not available in the prior year. Also, flights from Osaka are operating daily during summer, as opposed to three times per week in July 2009.

"Increased arrivals from Japan in June and July clearly indicate the importance of the Nagoya and Osaka markets for

the Northern Marianas tourism industry," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "For instance, in May of this year, we had no flights from Osaka and Nagoya, and Japan arrivals dropped 11 percent compared to May 2009 when those flights were online."

"Our priority remains to stabilize air service from these source cities and to keep those flights in the air year-round," Tenorio added. "We continue to dialogue with the administra-

tion and the Legislature on offering incentives that will drive our Japan tourism partners to keep those flights full and flying during the 'death valley' low season from October to mid-December."

Building on seven consecutive months of double-digit increases, arrivals from Korea posted a further 8-percent rise in July 2010 over the previous July, registering 10,782 visitors. As with Japan, the number of available air seats from Korea

also increased in July—by 9 percent. This was partly attributed to daytime flights from Seoul flying daily during the second half of the month, an increase from the previous schedule of only four times a week. However, this daily schedule ended on Sunday, Aug. 15.

The secondary market of China saw 4,615 arrivals in July, an 87-percent increase over the same month last year. Arrivals were augmented by twice-a-week charter flights from Bei-

jing that began on July 16. Also, charter flights from Guangzhou operated briefly from early in the month until July 20. This is compared to July 2009, when charter flights from both Guangzhou and Shanghai were flying.

Meanwhile, arrivals from the secondary market of Russia were down 25 percent to 375. Arrivals from the United States were up 5 percent to 951, while visitors from Other Areas increased 18 percent to 271. (MVA)

Lawyer in hot water over fraudulent cashier's check

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government filed charges yesterday against a lawyer for taking \$184,947.49 in proceeds from a fraudulent Citibank cashier's check.

Danilo T. Aguilar is being accused of two counts of laundering of monetary instruments.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI summoned Aguilar to appear in court on Aug. 26, 2010 at 9:30am.

Saipan Tribune contacted Aguilar yesterday to get his side but a staff at his office said he is in Guam. The lawyer had not called back as of press time.

Special agent Shaun Morita of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation stated in his affidavit that Aguilar had admitted, in substance, to willingly taking the proceeds of the fraudulent cashier's check and authorizing distribution of the funds.

Morita said that Aguilar confessed during a May 19, 2010, meeting with his attorney, Peter Perez Jr., assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, and U.S. Secret Service special agents.

Morita said that, according to Aguilar, he panicked once the Bank of Guam froze his bank

accounts and immediately began withdrawing funds from First Hawaiian Bank to cover business and personal expenses.

Morita said Aguilar admitted receiving the fraudulent cashier's check in the mail.

The lawyer allegedly claimed he knew it was wrong not to return the funds as the Bank of Guam requested, but he was not thinking properly at the time.

Morita said the scheme began on March 13, 2009, when Aguilar directed his employee, Rolan D. Bautista, to deposit a cashier's check—purportedly drawn on a Citibank account amounting to \$298,960—into a Bank of Guam business checking account. Bautista did this at the Bank of Guam's branch in Upper Tumon, Guam.

Bank of Guam placed a hold on the funds for 11 business days, then released the funds on March 31, 2009, into Aguilar's Bank of Guam account.

On April 1, 2009, Bautista purchased cashier's check number 826803 from the Bank

of Guam branch in Hagatna, Guam.

Morita said the cashier's check number was purchased with a check written from Aguilar's law offices' Bank of

Guam account, in the amount of \$236,766, made payable to Aguilar's law offices.

Additionally, Bautista cashed a check written from Aguilar's law offices' Bank of Guam ac-

count in the amount of \$55,792.

On April 2, 2009, the Bank of Guam cashier's check number 826803 was deposited into a First Hawaiian Bank money market checking account at its Tamuning branch. The FHB account is held under Aguilar's

law offices.

Morita said that, on May 14, 2009, the counterfeit Citibank cashier's check was returned by the Federal Reserve Bank because of an "invalid routing number"; it was later confirmed by Citibank to be a fraudulent check.

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Additional English placement test today

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an additional English placement test today, Aug. 19, 2010, from 9am to 12pm, in Room A-6 and A-7 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

The math placement test will also be scheduled on the following dates:

■ Aug. 19: 10am – 12pm, Room A-5; 5pm – 7pm, Room A-5

■ Aug. 20: 10am – 12pm, Room A-5
Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the math and English placement tests. Registration for NMC's Fall 2010 semester is still on-

going until Friday, Aug. 20, 2010 (9am – 6pm). Late registration is on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010 (9am – 12pm).

There is a \$25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement

test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

Test takers must bring a valid photo

VAN

From Page 1

the scene along with his female passenger, but responding police officers later tracked them down.

Kim was arrested for driving while under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, and fleeing the scene of a crash.

The passenger, Suk Young Yang, 40, was also allegedly intoxicated. She was not arrested.

Kim and Yang, both Korean nationals, were not injured.

The van, a white 2007 Ford E350, shattered the glass and the wooden wall, then rammed about three benches in the courtroom. The impact also punched a big hole in the courtroom's ceiling.

The van had moderate damage to the front.

Investigators determined that alcohol was a factor in the crash.

Saipan Tribune learned from sources that the Federal Protective Service has been investigating the incident in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals Service.

The initial damage to property was estimated at about \$30,000.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said that

ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time. (*NMC*)

DPS received a call on Tuesday at 11:28am about a disturbance at the Horiguchi Building.

When police officers Jonathan Cepeda and Catherine Pangelinan arrived at the scene, an on-duty security guard met them and told them that a white van had crashed into the wall of the U.S. District Court on the north-eastern portion of the building.

The guard told the officers that the driver and the passenger fled on foot, giving them a description of the two.

Cepeda and Pangelinan then conducted a search and spotted two individuals matching the descriptions. They interviewed the two, who admitted that they were involved in the crash.

Blas said the security guard later identified the two persons as the driver and passenger of the van.

Investigation conducted by traffic investigator Kwon Norris showed that the van was heading north on Alaihai Avenue, a road east of Horiguchi Building, when it stopped at the intersection.

Acceleration marks were evident at the intersection when the van turned left and completed a U-turn. The van went straight into the wall of the courtroom at Horiguchi Building.

There are no scheduled hearings in federal court this week.

INCREASE

From Page 1

pared to the same period last year.

Between January and March 2010, business gross revenue reached \$424.6 million, compared to only \$411.48 million during the same quarter last year.

Other economic indicators, including the government's general fund revenue, visitor arrivals, hotel occupancy, remittances, bank deposits, vehicle sales, also showed growth.

The Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division released yesterday the CNMI Quarterly Economic Indicators Report for January to March 2010.

Ivan A. Blanco, director of Commerce's CSD, said the division looks forward to, and expects another increase in the business gross revenue for the second quarter.

"The real numbers will be confirmed when we complete the economic indicators' second quarter report," he said.

General fund revenue or the govern-

ment's collections from taxes and fees reached \$36.339 million, a 4-percent increase from the year-ago level of \$33.34 million.

Government expenditures slightly went down, from \$39.86 million to \$39.50 million.

Bank deposits increased by 2 percent, or from \$450.23 million to \$460.11 million, but bank loans dropped by 8 percent or from \$136.42 million to \$125.27 million.

Remittances slightly went up to \$16.3 million, from \$16 million.

The sale of new cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles increased by 26 percent, or from 203 to 256.

Visitor arrivals reached 109,786 in January to March, a 2-percent growth from 107,434 last year.

Average hotel occupancy stood at 76.2 percent, from 73.2 percent last year. However, the average hotel daily rate went down from \$99.99 last year to \$98.85.

Imports of oil, cement, food beverages and other goods remained the same, at 79,340 tons.

The number of commercial and residential phone lines decreased from 30,129 to 29,081.

Commerce data also shows that the number of applications for commercial, residential and government building permits dropped to 22 from 33. The value of building constructions also went down to \$1.02 million, from \$2.33 million last year.

On an annual basis, business gross revenue dropped to a historic low of \$1.552 billion in 2009 because of the death of the garment industry and a drop in visitor arrivals.

From \$2.020 billion in 2005, BGR consistently plummeted in the last five years. It fell below the \$2 billion-mark in 2006 at \$1.829 billion before dropping further to \$1.672 billion in 2007. In 2008, it fell again to \$1.668 billion before hitting \$1.552 billion last year.

The Fitial administration anticipates some economic improvements through projects funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grants this year.

HOUSE

From Page 1

The new spending plan, which allows employee termination and work hour cuts, passed on a 12-7 vote largely along political lines, with the ruling Covenant Party trumping efforts by minority Republicans to amend the bill.

Among the contentious provisions of the bill is an increase in each lawmaker's annual discretionary fund—from the current \$86,796 to \$130,000—even as most government employees will be subjected to unpaid holidays and up to 16-hour work cuts per pay period.

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente's (R-Saipan) amendment to stop the lawmakers' budget increase and to give the Judiciary and Northern Marianas College more funding was defeated on an 11-8 vote.

The session was dotted with exchanges of emotionally charged words, accusations of arm-twisting, and allegations of rushing an unbalanced budget bill to cover up for the increased lawmakers' budget.

House Bill 17-96, House Substitute 2 now goes to the Senate for action.

The government will be forced to shut down if no budget is passed before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

Sigh of relief

Rep. Ramon Basa's (Cov-Saipan), author of the bill, said he can now heave a sigh of relief that the budget measure has passed the House after a long and arduous journey.

"But it's not over yet. If the Senate does not approve it, we would have to go into a conference committee. I'm 99-percent sure they would make changes to the bill. ... My main concern is to have a budget passed. I will work with the Senate to make sure we'll have a mutually acceptable budget," he said.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said the budget bill will be automatically referred to the Senate Fis-

cal Affairs Committee for review.

He said the Senate has a self-imposed deadline of two weeks to act on the budget.

Crossing party lines

Yesterday's session saw two of the nine Republicans crossing over to join the Covenant Party and Independents in voting "yes" to the spending plan.

The 12 members who voted "yes" to pass HB 17-96, HS2 included Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Floor Leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan).

The seven members who voted "no" were Benavente, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

One member was absent because he was off-island, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Even without the two Republicans crossing party lines, the budget bill would still have passed on a 10-9 vote.

Basa's committee revised the budget bill at least four times since last week.

'Irresponsible, disappointing'

Benavente, as well as Dela Cruz, said it's "irresponsible for the majority bloc to ram the budget bill down some members' throats" without having substantive debate on it.

Benavente was particularly disappointed with the majority's successful attempts to end debate on the bill, even before other members could introduce floor amendments to what they described as an unbalanced budget and

one that gives budget increases to lawmakers while asking many government employees to swallow up to 25 percent salary cuts. He said the bill would force 80 to 64 work hour cuts per pay period, and unpaid holidays.

His defeated written floor amendments include stopping lawmakers from giving themselves \$130,000 in discretionary fund, increasing the Judiciary's funding by \$650,000, and giving NMC an additional \$621,188 for the college to meet the maintenance-of-effort agreement between the U.S. Department of Education and the CNMI governor.

The Board of Education, given a zero budget in previous versions of the bill, will now be given \$164,328 but this will be taken from the Public School System's budget, resulting in PSS getting just \$29,967,694.

Benavente's amendment got only eight "yes" votes, while 11 voted "no."

"It's a major disappointment. It's an irresponsible action. We're not only underfunding NMC but also jeopardizing its accreditation," Benavente said in an interview after the session.

Benavente, who served for almost 20 years as a lawmaker, said he has never seen such "dirty politics" in a long time.

Republicans accused the majority of blocking attempts to debate on the bill and to make amendments.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) was ready to make floor amendments when Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) made a motion to end debate, which was immediately seconded.

The motion to end debate succeeded, with 11-7 votes. Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) did not vote.

Deleon Guerrero said passing the budget is the most important job for House members, and it's an injustice to people if there's no reasonable debate.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said members have to be mindful of the deadline to pass the budget.

Tenorio said he also has some proposed amendments but because this could further delay the bill's passage, he would just go to the Senate for it to incorporate his proposed amendments.

The Senate president, when asked for comment, said he "welcomes" the speaker's visit.

Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), in a later interview, said it is insulting to people to take pay cuts when lawmakers are getting increased discretionary funding.

'House on fire'

At the start of the session, Basa introduced a second substitute bill in the form of an amendment to the bill.

Basa's second substitute bill made technical and other amendments to the one he introduced on Tuesday.

Benavente then introduced his written floor amendments.

"It's not right, Mr. Speaker, when everybody else has to sacrifice and for us to increase our budget," he said.

Ogumoro, at this point, wanted to end discussion on the amendment.

Dela Cruz said members should not rush to pass the budget.

"It seems like some of us just want to ram it into everybody's throat," he said.

Benavente also advised freshman lawmakers to "do what's right."

Ogumoro again reminded the speaker of her motion to end debate.

When Tenorio called for a motion to pass the budget bill instead of a motion to end debate, Republicans raised objections. The speaker corrected his statement.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) reminded his colleagues that it's a budget bill on the table.

"Calm down Mr. Guerrero," Basa said.

The members then voted on Benavente's amendment. It was defeated.

Basa said there were honest mistakes but they will be corrected.

He said the increase in annual discretionary funding will offset the decrease in the leadership account from

\$400,000 to only \$76,000.

Basa said he foresees a conference committee.

"I also heard the Senate has a completely different version [of the bill]," he said.

Addressing Tebuteb, Basa said if he tells him where to get the money, then agencies will be given more funding.

Tebuteb said one way of addressing agencies' concerns is by passing Benavente's amendment.

The speaker said the House already voted down the amendment.

"Colleague, don't tell me I'm not doing the right thing. You better take back your statement," Basa later told Tebuteb.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero raised questions about appropriations for Rota, when Ogumoro again reminded the speaker of her motion to end debate.

Other provisions

The budget bill includes \$9.115 million in the Independent Programs' budget solely for payments of departments' and agencies' utilities. It also maintains hiring restriction.

HB 17-96, HS2 also maintains temporary maximum annual salary for at least six positions. The Fitial administration said this is meant to rectify existing disparities in pay levels of department and activity heads.

It gives expenditure authorities the flexibility to determine funding for their operations. This includes determining their own reduction in work hours, reduction in wages, furloughs, reduction in force or other means, depending on the expenditure authority, to be able to cut their spending to live within the budget given to them.

Under the bill, reprogramming of funds between those for personnel and non-personnel account is allowed.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial identified a total of \$149.171 million in projected resources for FY 2011. Of this figure, \$132 million is available for government operations.

AFTER FAILING TO LOCATE PROBLEM WATER METERS:**CUC to settle schools' disputed billing for \$300K**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña disclosed yesterday that the agency has offered the Public School System about \$300,000 to settle disputed billings in various schools after admitting that problems with these questionable accounts occurred some three years ago.

"We're willing to forego and settle these disputed billings with PSS so we can move forward. Because when you go back to problem accounts

[that] are 2 to 3 years old, it's difficult sometimes to pinpoint the problem so we expose ourselves to a situation where we waste efforts instead of working and focusing on the here and now," said Muña.

PSS has over a hundred water meter accounts with CUC, covering schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Muña said that CUC and PSS spent over seven months identifying and locating the problem water meters but failed to find them.

"Upon review of these accounts, we found reasonable

Froilan wants Legislature to run 'qualifying certificate' program

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) could have his way, he would want a repeal of the Qualifying Certificate Program and have the Legislature administer this tax break program for qualified investors.

Under the Investment Act of 2000, the CNMI government, through the Commonwealth Development Authority, provide companies up to 100 percent tax benefits to encourage new businesses.

"Every year, we lose \$15 million in revenue because of the qualifying certificate program. We cannot continue that practice," he said in an interview.

He said he has been consistent in his position that casino investors should not be qualified to apply for a qualifying certificate. Tenorio has two pending bills seeking to legalize casino operation on Saipan.

"I would want investors to ap-

ply to us [Legislature] directly. ...We are the one imposing the taxes so we should also be the one to exempt [some investors] from paying taxes. We should not delegate that responsibility to an Executive Branch agency like the CDA," he said in an interview.

Tenorio considers a bill repealing the QC program as among the revenue-generating bills that the 17th Legislature will pass to help sustain the economy. The House passed last week a bill increasing business license fees by 100 percent to 5,900 percent. The bill is now with the Senate.

A qualifying certificate program is a contract valid for a given period of time, executed by the governor upon recommendation of the CDA board of directors, between the CNMI government and the beneficiary, which has qualified for certain tax rebates or tax abatements or for both in return for development or expansion of a desirable business activity.

grounds to allow an offsetting for PSS. The offer is for the best interest of both parties. Our efforts would be best invested in the situation going forward," Muña said, adding that offsetting will apply to future billings of disputed school meters.

He said both CUC and PSS

have agreed on the amount that will be offset and are now finalizing the language of the memorandum of agreement for signing.

Muña also affirmed the earlier statement of PSS finance director Richard Waldo that the system will be using a fresh account for its utilities this school year following payments made by PSS.

"PSS is now paying its obli-

gations to CUC and I acknowledge Mr. Waldo's understanding of the present financial situation and for doing the right thing," said Muña.

PSS' water and power consumption for the whole year amounts to about \$4 million. Education officials believe that a significant portion of this account are overcharges due to "ghost accounts" and unaddressed leaks in many schools.

Public schools now use smart water meters but many are still producing inaccurate billings due to defects. CUC is now working to replace these defective meters.

This fiscal year, PSS reprogrammed \$1.4 million from its federal monies to pay for power and water obligations. The rest was shouldered by the local government through PSS budget allotments.

Judge rejects plea agreement in fatal assault

A Superior Court judge has rejected the plea bargain being offered by the suspect in the fatal assault of a man near Kagman High School, saying the terms of the agreement are too lenient.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos rejected 22-year-old Shane Jonathan Hocog's plea agreement yesterday and set the jury trial

for Nov. 29, 2010 at 9am.

Police said Hocog punched 33-year-old Larry Garcia Gonzales in the face near Kagman High School on March 1, 2010. Gonzales was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on March 4, 2010, due to severe head injury. Autopsy showed that the

victim died due to brain contusion and laceration.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Hocog with voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

The first plea agreement had proposed a sentence of five years, all suspended except

for three years, for involuntary manslaughter. After serving two years in prison, Hocog would be eligible for parole.

The plea agreement was later amended, with Hocog pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter in exchange for a five-year sentence, all suspended except for three years, with credit for time already served in jail. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Over 20 applicants for CUC executive director post

»EPA to review eligibility list, candidates but selection lies with Fitial

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 20 individuals—majority of them from off-island—have applied for the executive

director position at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to outgoing chief Tony Muña yesterday.

Among the applicants is current assistant executive di-

rector for operation Abe Utu Malae, he said.

Muña emphasized, though, that the list of candidates would still undergo review and approval by the U.S. Environmen-

tal Protection Agency.

After reviewing all the candidates' professional qualifications and experiences pursuant to what is required by the stipulated order, EPA has until Sept. 16 to approve the listing.

"Once EPA approves the

listing, we will sit down with the governor as to how he wants to conduct the selection process. The governor will make that decision," Muña told *Saipan Tribune*.

A new executive director should be named on or before Oct. 29 this year, he added.

Muña said that CUC is now completing the applicants' listing to make sure everything complies with the stipulated order before submitting the documents to EPA on Sept. 2.

When asked if he would be allowed to make a recommendation, Muña said it would all depend on the governor's wishes.

The CUC executive director position offers a salary of \$120,000 to \$150,000 per annum.

Muña resigned from his position in June but he intends to stay on until a qualified replacement is named to his post.

Fitial hired Muna as the CUC's top official in May of 2008 to help address the unstable power generation and other poor services at the agency. The utilities firm has been in state of

emergency since 2008 due to these concerns.

The executive director post is just one of the key positions that the agency wants to fill in order to address the stipulated order requirements. Ten CUC posts are still being advertised as vacant, including one grant officer, a grant specialist, seven engineers, and an internal auditor. The agency offers salary packages ranging from \$30,000 to \$90,000 per annum for two years. Besides the internal auditor position, which will be under the chief financial office, all other posts are with the water and wastewater divisions.

Other vacant positions are the deputy director for drinking water and wastewater, a manager for drinking and wastewater, and various levels of certified water and wastewater operators.

The stipulated orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and EPA based on the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act and set the requirements and deadlines for CUC to meet.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation donates \$10K to trades institute

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation yesterday made an educational tax credit donation in the amount of \$10,000 to the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

Jerry Tan, vice chairman of the foundation, handed two checks that totaled \$10,000 to NMTI president Anthony Pellegrino at the school's grounds.

"The more you have, the more you can do whatever you need to do," Tan told Pellegrino as he gave the donation. "We'll continue to find ways to support you."

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation drives reform by engaging in practice, policy, and partnerships that provide quality education, social welfare, cultural, and sports enrichment opportunities. Its fundamental purpose is to improve the well-being of every community it serves.

Foundation manager Edward Arriola, Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* that they initially toured the NMTI to check



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Siu Lin Foundation vice chair Jerry Tan hands over two checks worth \$10,000 as education tax credit donation to Northern Marianas Trades Institute president Anthony Pellegrino yesterday at the NMTI facility in Lower Base. From left, Foundation manager Edward Arriola, Jr., Tan Holdings vice president for Finance Lina Dimaano, Tan, Pellegrino, and NMTI education director Victorino Cepeda.

their establishment.

During the tour and orientation, Arriola said they found out that the school provides good services so they decided to give the donation to them.

Tan said they have been mak-

ing donations by means of the education tax credit to various schools over the years.

"It is an important source of funding for them to operate the school," he said, adding that the education tax credit is a way to

Healthy Ballroom Dance class presentation today

»Summer Reading and Cultural Fair event ends Friday

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The public is invited to watch the grand finale presentation of the Healthy Ballroom Dance class at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library today.

Part of the public library's Summer Reading and Cultural Fair event, the Healthy Ballroom Dance is a collaboration

of the Wise Women Village Project of the Department of Public Health, the CNMI Library Council, Library Friends, and the public library.

Children's Library Associate Erlinda C. Naputi said participants of the Healthy Ballroom Dance class, which started on June 23, will showcase the ballroom dance moves they learned during the summer program.

Naputi is encouraging students who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge component of the program to turn in their reading logs today as the 2010 Summer Reading and Cultural Fair ends tomorrow.

The event will culminate with the grand finale presentation of the students from the Chamorro Cultural Activity tomorrow at 3pm.


Naputi said participants of the Summer Reading Challenge will have a chance to spin the Wheel of Fortune and win lots of prizes.

Participants of the Summer Reading Challenge were required to read at least 10 different kinds of books during summer. Each participant was given a booklet wherein they can write about the books they read.

"The program aims to encourage kids to read even during summer," said Naputi.


Sponsors for the 2010 Summer Reading and Cultural Fair event are the Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

For more information, contact Erlinda Naputi at 235-7322.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-10-045

USED OIL REMOVAL, TANK CLEANING, AND INSPECTION at ROTA POWER PLANT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms for the "TANK CLEANING" - at its Rota Power Plant, in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All the work will be done as a part of the US EPA Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO2) response action and is subject to their approval. This project will be funded through the grant awarded by the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs:

A. Project 1:

1. Workplan Preparation;
2. Used Oil Removal, Cleaning, and Inspection of Tank R2 (20,000 USG), each, used for used oil storage;
3. Used Oil Removal, Cleaning and Inspection of tank R3 (5,000 USG), used for used oil storage;
4. Removal of diesel, Cleaning, and Inspection of tank R1 (231,000 USG), used for diesel storage;
5. Lube Oil Removal, Cleaning, and Inspection of tank R4 (9,000USG), used for new lube oil storage;
6. Removal of used oil in Drums

B. Project 2:

1. Workplan preparation;
2. Repair R2, after cleaning
3. Repair R3, after cleaning;
4. Repair R4 after cleaning;
5. Repair R1 after cleaning

RFP Deadlines and Highlights:

Proposal Submission - One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-10-045 USED OIL REMOVAL AND TANK CLEANING at ROTA POWER PLANT" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 31, 2010 at 10:00 AM. (CHST) local time**. Late submissions will not be considered.

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until August 26, 2010. A non-refundable payment of \$200 will be required for each set of Plans, Specification, and Proposal Forms.**

- A Pre-proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **August 26, 2010 at 1200 PM** CUC ROTA Power Plant, ROTA.
- A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.
- The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page - <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.
- This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior.

Submission of questions and clarifications must be submitted in writing via email no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time **on August 27, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Support Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; Mr. William Sword, Technical Manager for Oil, via email wsword.william@gmail.com and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project Manager, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. **CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.**

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL
PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 10 Third Quarter Meeting on Friday August 20, 2010 at the Chamolinian Room, Hyatt Regency at 9:00am-3:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Review and adoption of Agenda
- III. Review and adoption of the FY'10 1st Meeting Minutes (12/19/09)
- IV. Reports
 - A. OVR Director
 1. 2010 NDEAM
 2. Needs Assessment
 3. State Plan Status
 4. Fiscal Report
 - B. SRC Chair
 1. 2010/11 Resource Plan
 2. NDEAM Participation for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian
 3. Other committee activities
- V. E-Rehab Training: Mr. Skip Bingham and Mr. Gary Leete
- VI. Consumer Forum: CAC, etc.
- VII. Announcements
- VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Acting Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ JESUS M. ELAMETO
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

'Donate to Crime Stoppers, push for legislation for sex offender registry'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Crime Stoppers coordinator and Department of Public Safety's Sex Offenders Registry officer in charge Jason T. Tarkong urged members of the Rotary Club of Saipan to donate to the former and help push for legislation for the latter during its regular membership meeting on Tuesday at Giovanni's Restaurant at Hyatt.

Tarkong said that through Crime Stoppers, they were able to make 223 arrests, clear 373 cases,

paid over \$18,000 in rewards, recover \$246,000 in stolen property, and seize \$2,647,000 worth of illegal drugs in the CNMI in the past 12 years.

Tarkong said they were also able to recover over 800 grams of the illegal drug metamphetamine or "ice" in 2010, priced between \$400 to \$600 per gram.

"It's all about anonymity," said Tarkong, referring to all tips they receive through the Crime Stoppers hotline and website that help solve crimes.

The Crime Stoppers hotline is 234-7272. Their website is

www.nmicrimestoppers.com.

According to Tarkong, they help promote the program to the youth by doing presentations in various schools on island.

Donations to the program will add to the funds they use to pay rewards for tips they receive, he added. Every tip that leads to an arrest to solve a crime is paid up to \$1,000.

Tarkong also updated Rotarians on the CNMI Sex Offenders Registry that was recently made available online.

Tarkong said the website was made possible through the Tribe and Territory Sex Offender Registry System provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

It aims to assist tribes and territories in complying with the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, which was



passed in 2006, he said.

Tarkong said the CNMI Sex Offenders Registry will help deter sex offenders who think the CNMI is a place where they can avoid registering as a sex offender.

According to Tarkong, the information they get from the federal government regarding the registry has already been forwarded to the Legislature but lawmakers have yet to act on it.

"I know the Legislature is working on paying the bills and getting employees paid," said Tarkong, but he also noted that compliance with the law would allow the CNMI to continue receiving federal funding to implement the law.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Jason T. Tarkong of the Department of Public Safety addresses members of the Rotary Club of Saipan during its regular meeting yesterday at Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's Restaurant.

Kilili sets veterans town hall meeting on Friday

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan confirmed yesterday that officials from the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Honolulu have accepted his invitation to speak to local veterans on health care and benefits.

"Together with Ruth Coleman from the Office of Military Liaison and Veteran's Affairs and other veterans groups in the NMI, we are pleased to announce this opportunity for our local veterans to hear directly from VA officials," said Sablan.

The Veterans Town Hall Meeting will be held on Friday, Aug. 20, 2010, from 5:30pm to

7:30pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Dr. James E. Hastings, director of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, will be on hand to provide information on VA health initiatives in the region.

"We are very grateful that Dr. Hastings has rearranged his schedule in order to make it to this event. His efforts reflect the importance of CNMI veterans to the VA and I encourage all our veterans to take advantage of this opportunity to voice their questions and concerns," Sablan adds. (PR)

Wanted 'ice' dealer has prior arrest in 2007

A suspected supplier who managed to escape during pursuit that ended with the getaway vehicle crashing into a house in Chalan Kiya on Aug. 4 has eluded a police manhunt.

Acting police spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas said Tuesday they still don't have an update on the whereabouts of Qun Yu, also known as Papa-sang.

The suspect is considered armed and dangerous.

Saipan Tribune learned that Yu has a prior arrest in December 2007, also for distributing methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan. It's not clear yet whether the case was already disposed of.

Yu and another man allegedly conspired to deliver "ice" in

exchange for money on Dec. 5, 12, and 14, 2007.

On Aug. 14, Yu managed to escape during pursuit, but his girlfriend, Zhang Ling, was arrested.

Police reportedly seized about 500 grams of "ice" during the operation.

Police said members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement

Task Force had tried to arrest Yu and Ling but the two, who were aboard a Toyota Land Cruiser, rammed into the officers' vehicle along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

The suspects' vehicle eventually crashed at a house in Chalan Kiya, where Ling was arrested. Yu escaped on foot. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-053

"REHABILITATION OF THE DANDAN HEAD START PLAYGROUND FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Rehabilitation of the Dan Dan Head Start Playground for the CNMI Public School System** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Scope of Work is available beginning on August 12, 2010 at the Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$18.20.

There will be a Mandatory Site Visit on August 25, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., local time at **Dan Dan Head Start Center, Saipan, MP 96950**. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this site visit. Questions must be submitted in writing and addressed to Rommel Mostales, Acting CIP Coordinator via fax to (670) 664-3715 or e-mail to the following address: rommel.mostales@cnmipss.org not later than August 30, 2010.

Bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-053"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than Tuesday, September 7, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bid received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



EQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DPW10-RFP-009

ROUTE 100 (a.k.a. Chalan San Francisco De Borja) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, ROTA; CM-NH-0100 (003)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Route 100 (a.k.a. Chalan San Francisco De Borja) Environmental Assessment Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC § 70-30.3-305 (Architect-Engineer Services) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **August 19, 2010** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **September 7, 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **September 21, 2010**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) – **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) – **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) – **25%**
4. Cost proposal – **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-009"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 24, 2010**. Proposals located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **September 24, 2010** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 24, 2010** and must be received no later than **October 5, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section § 70-30.3-245.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Guerrero says he was not intoxicated

Businessman Juan Pan T. Guerrero appeared in the Superior Court yesterday to testify in his bench trial on a traffic case, insisting he was not drunk when he bumped a vehicle on March 4, 2010.

Testifying in his defense, Guerrero said he was actually the one who called the emergency hotline 911 after hitting another vehicle along Middle Road in Gualo Rai on the evening of the incident.

Guerrero, a former chairman of the Retirement Fund board of trustees, recalled that after jogging at the American Memorial Park, he proceeded to Oleai Beach Club where he met one of the owners and other friends.

While there, Guerrero said, he ate some food and drank a small glass of watered down wine. He said he had another glass but, when he left, it still contained more than three-fourths of watered down wine.

Since he had just finished jogging, Guerrero said he also drank a lot of water at the time.

On his way home, Guerrero said he was traveling about 35 miles per hour along Middle Road.

The businessman said he was driving his car on the outside lane when he saw a low-rider truck exiting from the Shell Highway Express area.

He said he reduced his speed,

but the truck suddenly proceeded to the inner lane, causing him to bump the vehicle.

Guerrero said he parked right on the shoulder to avoid obstructing traffic, but the truck continued moving several feet away.

He said he called 911 and when the officers came they first talked with the truck's driver.

He said he volunteered to undergo a sobriety test, but the officers refused, saying it's too dark in that area.

Guerrero said police then arrested him. He said he was frustrated with the way police handled the investigation.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the

courtroom, Guerrero was still on the witness stand.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona is presiding over the bench trial.

No one was injured in the incident. Both vehicles had slight to moderate damage.

The government filed charges against Guerrero that include under the influence of alcohol, refusal to undergo a breathalyzer test, and reckless driving.

Assistant attorneys general Benjamin Petersburg and Russell Lorring are prosecuting the case. Guerrero's lawyer is Joey San Nicolas.

Guerrero was one of four gubernatorial candidates in the November 2009 general election. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Municipal council opens nominations for Leadership Memorial Courtyard

The 11th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council is now accepting nominations for names of community members that will be included in the Saipan Leadership Memorial Courtyard.

"The Leadership Memorial Courtyard Community Partners Planning Committee seeks the help of the Saipan community in completing its listing of names to be placed on the memorial," said council chair Ramon B. Camacho.

The Saipan Leadership Memorial Courtyard will be built

in Chalan Kanoa across the post office.

Phase 1 of its construction has already begun and is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development through its Community Development Block Grant.

According to Camacho, the Saipan Leadership Memorial Courtyard will include the names of elected leaders of Saipan during the period of the CNMI's political status as a

U.S. commonwealth.

It will also take into account appointed leaders during the Naval and Trust Territory administrations prior to the creation of the Commonwealth, including mayors, early Marianas district leaders, chiefs of police, and representatives.

Nomination forms are available at the council office and the NMI Museum of History and Culture or may be faxed to the

nominator by request.

After completing the nomination form, it may be submitted to the council or the museum, by fax to 664-2701 or by email to council administrative officer Frances Muña at spnmunco@yahoo.com or to museum director Robert Hunter at roberthunter@gmail.com.

For more information, contact the council office by email or call 664-2700. **(Clarissa David)**



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

You don't raise heroes, you raise sons. And if you treat them like sons, they'll turn out to be heroes, even if it's just in your own eyes.—Author Unknown. Happy 5th birthday my "superhero," Anthony Jacob! May God continue to bless you on this day and everyday of your life! I love you always and forever! Greetings come from Mommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 2, 2010
6:00 PM, Zoning Conference Room,
Joeten Building, Saipan

- A. Preliminary Matters
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 5. Communications
 6. Public Comments
- B. Reports
 1. Chairperson
 2. Secretary
 3. Treasurer
 4. Administrator
 5. Committees
 6. Legal Counsel
- C. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.
 1. Conditional Use application #2010-0040 containing lot# 008 H 28, Chalan Kanoa Dist#2 (along Beach Road) for Warehousing and General Wholesaling.
- D. Old Business.
 1. Update on Zoning Office Operations (Permit Processing, Enforcement, Junk Car Program)
- E. New Business.
 1. Restructure of Board Meetings to include Public Hearings
 2. Adult Business Overlay District and Adult Business Parks – Update
- F. Executive (Closed) Session
- G. Miscellaneous
 1. Other Matters
 2. Announcements
 3. Next Meeting
- H. Adjourn

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 19, 1999

Babauta seeks alternative ways to reimburse CNMI

CNMI's Resident Representative to Washington Juan N. Babauta yesterday said he has asked the U.S. Congress to immediately reimburse the Northern Marianas of some \$600,000 for expenses it incurred in hosting more than 500 illegal Chinese immigrants on the island-municipality of Tinian. Since it will take Congress some time to appropriate the amount, Babauta asked if it was possible to pay back the CNMI in other way because the island government does not have enough resources to spend in taking care of more illegal aliens. Nearly two months after the last batch of undocumented Chinese were sent home, a boat carrying 151 illegal Chinese immigrants arrived on Tinian last Monday morning.

Bringing SC 'closer' to people

The Supreme Court started holding oral arguments of cases on appeal at the courthouses on Rota and Tinian as part of the judiciary's goal to educate laymen about the court system. "This is a new practice which we began last week," said court administrator Margaret Palacios. "Through this process, residents of Tinian and Rota can see and experience first hand what the Supreme Court is all about." Two hearings are on schedule today. The justices will hear a criminal conviction appeal at 10:00 a.m. At 2:00 pm they will oral arguments on a motion involving the Hillblom Estate case. In the past, oral arguments and hearings of appeal cases were held only on Saipan. Palacios said the idea of holding sessions on the two islands was conceptualized by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justice Alex Castro.

Aug. 19, 2002

Palacios: Who, me? No way!

Embattled lawmaker Norman S. Palacios has appealed the Superior Court to set aside his conviction on an assault and battery and disturbing the peace charges that accused him of unlawful sexual contact. In a four-page court document filed late last week, Palacios, through counsel Edward C. Arriola, asked that his conviction be set aside and that he be declared not guilty in connection with the pending criminal case. Reports have it that Palacios' conviction last week was in connection with a woman he met at a Tinian bar sometime in November last year, whom he allegedly touched in an intimate part without consent.

House clarifies civil service exemptions

The bill that seeks to correct the mistakes created under Public Law 13-1 finally saw action on the legislative floor, with the House of Representatives passing the measure on a unanimous vote during Friday's session. House Bill 13-126 now goes to the Senate for similar action. The bill essentially restores the Office of Personnel Management under the Civil Service Commission, while providing Civil Service exemptions to certain positions within the Office of the Governor. The exemptions include confidential secretaries, advisors, lawyers, personal assistants, special assistants, clerks, and administrative personnel and support staff. Such exemptions would also apply to certain positions within the Lt. Governor's office.

Aug. 19, 2003

NMI to host investment confab

Fresh from an investment conference in Japan, Gov. Juan N. Babauta is determined to immediately follow this up with a more in-depth presentation intended for those who had expressed interest in investing in the Commonwealth. This time around, the CNMI will be hosting the conference in Japan and the administration-together with the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands, and some lawmakers-are now hunkering down to iron out the details of the conference, which is tentatively scheduled for the first or second week of October.

Labor to offer free consulting services on workplace safety

Beginning today, the Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, will be starting a free occupational safety consultation service for small businesses in the Commonwealth. During yesterday's proclamation signing, OSHA Region IX Administrator Frank Strassheim informed Gov. Juan N. Babauta that the CNMI-OSHA consultation program will offer free services to those businesses employing less than 250 workers who want to improve the safety and health conditions of their workplaces.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDPL-147**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL ON ROTA CNMI FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAND-ROTA BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIM.

THE LESSOR MUST BE COMPLYING WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DCCA-148 (A) (B)**

BID SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 07, 2010 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF FORTY (40) DESKTOP COMPUTERS
AND FORTY (40) DESKJET PRINTERS FOR THE DCCA
- CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP No.: 2010-CDA-13-RFP**

CLOSING DATE: Friday, August 20, 2010 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

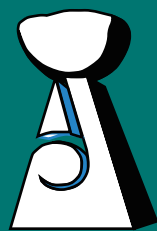
"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Grass is green

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune*Jim Rayphand is executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.*

One of the simplest truths I have come to believe is that the grass is not always greener on the other side. In fact, grass is green no matter where it is so long as you take the time to work for it. Make time to nurture it—mow it regularly, feed it once in a while, and give it some water from day to day. Sure, there will be dry spells when grass turns to dust and rises from the earth like ash in a breeze then settles as shadows over the land at sunset. But these are the times for rallying: plow the fields, crack open the dams, put down your seeds and spark new life! Some will complain and run for false hope of “greener pastures,” but others are steadfast—no retreat, no surrender—and know that ours is the place of *kings and dreamers* where everyone knows your name and that name is brother or sister. So, some of us say, come what may... we are here to stay. There is no place like the lean, green grass of our island home; there is no place like home, there is no place like home.

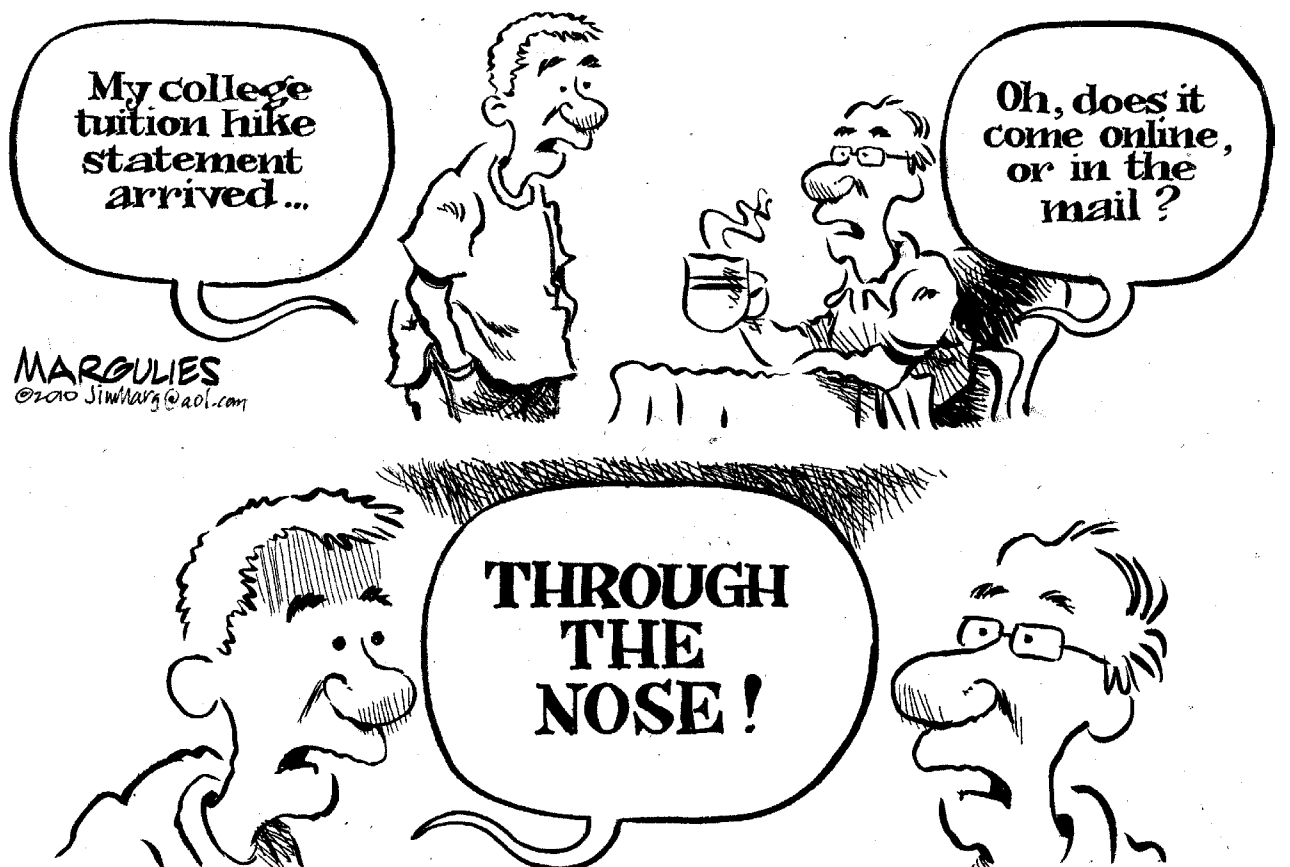
Yet there is talk about the “brain drain” in the CNMI and how we’re losing our best and brightest to other places with more opportunities. I certainly know my fair share of good people who left in search of bigger and better things, but I’d hardly say that they constitute our best or brightest. For one thing, the best of anything don’t just up and run when the going gets tough. For another, the brightest are those who after lighting their lamp know not to put it in a secret place or under a bushel basket, but on the lamp-stand to give light to all in the house so that those who come may see it. Our best and our brightest still walk among us. The only question is, when one door closes, will they lead us through the one that opens?

Advocates at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. stand firm in their resolve to be leaders on behalf of individuals with disabilities. We don’t apologize nor do we make excuses for that resolve; unfortunately, all we can really do is bear the torch and light the way through barriers of discrimination and other such roadblocks—we can not force anyone to follow behind us. All people (disability or otherwise) have choices: lead, follow, or get the heck out of the way.

Contrary to popular belief, the fundamental question at hand is not about how much we can get, but rather how much we can do. Personal freedom is the primary issue at stake. This life is my life. What you do with yours is entirely up to you. So, follow the new, green road of envy to Oz, but know that the heart, mind and soul always point back to home.

Ultimately, attitudes are the real barrier.

For more on issues relating to the needs of people with disabilities, please feel free to call NMPASI at 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278 [tty] / 235-7275 [fax] or contact us online via www.nmpasi.com.



Renewal

I was taught in college that the process of making new brain cells stopped in adolescence and we are basically “hard-wired” by the time we start school; however, new findings have turned that theory upside down by stating that we are making new brain cells and neural connections throughout our life. This means that you are capable of changing your attitudes, beliefs, and ultimately your results in life—if you believe you can and want to change.

In order to start learning how to change your brain, you should understand how your brain functions. In a previous article I mentioned that our mind works like a self-correcting guidance system to “steer” us toward the results we expect. In order to take advantage of our cybernetic ability, we should know the Results we want, take Action, and be Self-Correcting, which can be remembered by the acronym: RAS.

RAS also stands for reticular activating system, which is the scientific term for a network of nerve pathways about the size of the tip of your little finger. It is located at the base of your brain that connects to the spinal cord, cerebellum, and cerebrum. Your RAS acts as a filter or control center for the billions of bits of sensory data your brain processes every second. Everything you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch passes through this control center, which is then relayed to the appropriate part of your brain for processing. Much of this occurs at a nonconscious level at a speed 800 times faster than your conscious brain cells operate. If there is something important to you, your RAS sends a signal to your conscious brain to alert you.

For example, if you’re walking through a noisy airport with hundreds of people talking and lots of ambient noise, not a lot is brought to your attention. However, when an announcement is made over the public address system that states your name or your flight information, your RAS automatically alerts you so you can focus your attention on the important information.

You could also compare your RAS servomechanism to an Internet search engine where you type a keyword and within seconds, millions of websites are searched to find relevant pictures, videos, or articles for your inspection. Similarly, your reticular formation scours your neural network in thousandths of a second for all the relevant data you have in your biochemical hard drive. When you plant an idea into your RAS, it will search your brain to find precisely what you want.

If you create a clear picture that has strong emotional appeal (Result), your reticular activating system moves into high gear (Action) and uses your sensory abilities to hone in on anything that is relevant to your goal (Self-Correcting). Your intention focuses your attention for retention of anything that can help you successfully achieve your desired result. If you’re in a crowded, noisy room and two people 20 feet away are carrying on a conversation related to your goal, your RAS will focus on that conversation and alert your conscious brain to pay attention.

This marvelous ability of your brain can also work against you depending on what’s been programmed through your beliefs and self-image. For example, if you earn \$30,000 and you believe that

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune*Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.*

is all you are worth, then you create a comfort zone and act in ways to maintain that self-image. If you have a million-dollar idea, your RAS will filter it out so you won’t become aware of it or you won’t act on the idea. Research shows that a significant number of lottery winners lose their winnings within five years because their new wealth doesn’t fit their self-image. The Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards estimates that nearly one-third of lottery winners become bankrupt.

Another way your RAS can work against you is if you program it with what you don’t want. It will cause you to think about the negative thought until you get exactly what you don’t want. This is the reason why people who focus on not being broke, not getting divorced or breaking up, not getting fat, or not failing a class typically get the very thing they’re trying to avoid. The habit of thought around a negative idea produces negative results.

Here are five steps you can take to harness the power of your RAS to become more successful: First, clarity is power. Choose the exact message you send from your conscious to your nonconscious mind. Condition your brain to have clarity so that it knows precisely what you feel is important and what you’re going after.

Second, spend time thinking about your goal each day and imagining the results you want and how it will feel in full sensory detail. You may want to cut pictures out that represent the achievement of your goal and place them where you’ll see them often. Read books, watch movies and listen to music that inspire you and reinforce the image of the new person you want to become.

Third, focus on the positive aspect of your goal, and stop thinking about any negative thoughts about it. Avoid people that are negative and belittle your efforts to change. They act as an anchor to maintain your status quo. As you begin to progress, the negative influencers will have a tendency to pull you back down to a level where they feel most comfortable with you.

Fourth, take action. Be aware of the thoughts that your RAS sends to your conscious mind to move you closer to your goal. As you act on the cues given to you through your RAS, you’ll develop greater awareness and you’ll also begin to reinforce your new self-image and provide greater proof why you are worthy of your goal. Keep a journal of your ideas and thoughts. As you create new neural pathways with your new thought patterns you may have bursts of inspiration.

Fifth, once you’ve achieved your goal, reinforce the idea that you

See RENEWAL on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Updates

This week we will follow up on items mentioned in prior columns: the Visa Bulletin, who can apply for a green card, and E-1 and E-2 visas.

The Visa Bulletin: More good news for U.S. permanent residents' immediate relatives

In our April 27 column, we stated the threat to family unity posed by the long delays in processing green card applications that U.S. lawful permanent residents (LPRs) living in the CNMI have filed for their spouses and unmarried children under the age to 21. At that time, based on the U.S. Department of State's Visa Bulletin for May, the government was processing applications for most immediate relatives of LPRs, including Philippine and Chinese citizens, with priority dates on or before Dec. 1, 2006. We said, "We hope that this issue will be addressed and resolved by USCIS before it is too late."

Well, it has been resolved, much sooner than we expected.

A few weeks ago we wrote about a recent dramatic improvement in processing dates, and reported that the priority date for August is March 1, 2009. These processing dates for each month, for each class of applicant, are available in the U.S. Department of States' monthly Visa Bulletin, at http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html.

The Visa Bulletin for the upcoming month is published a few weeks ahead, and the bulletin for September is out now, and it continues to show spectacular advances in processing times. The magic date, for all countries except the Dominican Republic and Mexico, is now Jan. 1, 2010. That's a nine-month processing time for LPRs' immediate relatives. A couple of years ago, U.S. citizens' immediate relatives' applications couldn't be processed that quickly.

As we said in our earlier column, this is particularly important for LPRs in the CNMI, who will want to get their immediate relatives' applications processed before Nov. 27, 2011. That's the current drop-dead date for entry permits and umbrella permits issued

by the CNMI government. We think this information is sufficiently important that we will report the Visa Bulletin processing dates for LPRs' immediate relatives when they are published each month.

Reminder: Family-based immigrant visa applications require a qualifying petitioner

While we are on the topic of family-based immigration: This week the wife of a citizen of one of the Freely Associated States (Palau, the Marshalls, the FSM), who is here on a CNMI-issued permit as the immediate relative of an FAS citizen, asked if she is qualified to apply for a green card. The short answer is "no," at least not on the basis of her marriage. For family-based immigration, the petitioner must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident. (The one exception is for an immediate relative who is the derivative beneficiary of an employment-based immigrant visa petition, but that still requires that the petitioning U.S. business meet strict standards.)

A simple "no" is rarely appropriate, however. In this case, the family has teenage U.S. citizen children, the oldest of whom will be able to petition for her mother (and father, too, if he wants) to become a lawful permanent resident, once she turns 21. Although that may be several years after the mother's CNMI-issued status finally expires, on Nov. 27, 2011, there is still the possibility of USCIS issuing parole in place, which is a form of humanitarian parole, to preserve family unity for people in this difficult situation.

E-1 Treaty Trader and E-2 Treaty Investor Visas: Available, but with a catch

We have, on a number of occasions, recommended E-1 Treaty Trader or E-2 Treaty Investor status to a number of clients, and we have mentioned these visas in our columns. We also have stated in our columns that an investor who has a choice between the pending CNMI E-2

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

visa (if and when the final regulations are published) and regular E-2 status should choose the latter, every time. Although the availability of these visas is limited to countries that have appropriate treaties with the United States, that is a very wide group, including, just for some examples, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan. (Sorry: not for Russians or citizens of the People's Republic of China.)

E-1 and E-2 are very nice visas. Although they are nonimmigrant visas, they are relatively simple to obtain, and may be renewed indefinitely, so long as the relevant individual or company remains in status and maintains the business or investment which is the basis on which the visa was granted. The amount of investment in the business may be fairly low and still meet the standard of being significant in terms of the nature of the business. Family members may accompany the visa holder, and children may attend U.S. schools without obtaining U.S. student visas. And—this is where the catch comes in—a trader or investor who is already admitted to the U.S. may apply for a change of status, or renewal of an existing E-1 or E-2, without exiting the U.S. (The E-1 or E-2 itself is still issued by the relevant U.S. consulate, operated by the U.S. Department of State, but the status itself can be issued by USCIS.)

The catch comes in that word "admitted." A lot of people we see, who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents, believe that because they were admitted to the CNMI under CNMI immigration law, and because USCIS is honoring immigration status issued by the CNMI, that they therefore are admitted to the U.S. (CNMI, that is) for all purposes.

Not so, according to USCIS. We have previously warned that aliens in the CNMI who do not hold U.S. visas are considered "present without admission," a status usually reserved for candidates for removal (deportation), even if they also are considered to be in the CNMI on a lawful basis, such as a pre-existing valid CNMI immigration status, or via a form of parole such as parole in place for certain classes of CNMI immigration permit holders who were not directly recognized by the CNRA (aka the federalization statute).

The USCIS position was brought sharply into focus for us recently when we started working with a client who self-petitioned as an E-2 investor. The client has a valid investment that we believe meets all government requirements for an E-2 and, in fact, the E-2 was originally granted. But the investor made one error: believing himself to be admitted to the U.S. because he was lawfully present in the CNMI (where he has resided for years), he filed for E-2 status with USCIS, thinking he would get the actual visa later from the U.S. consulate in his home country.

Two months after receiving notice that his E-2 status was approved, the USCIS California Service Center, which had issued the approval, reversed itself. The new notice denied the E-2 as having been issued as a result of a "gross" error. What was the error? The fact that the investor had obtained advance parole, returned to his home country on business, and then re-entered the CNMI using his advance parole document. The denial notice stated that parole is not a visa, and that therefore the applicant cannot adjust status.

We have asked for reconsideration on behalf of the client, but so far we have not received any response. We have also decided that all of our first-time E-1 and E-2 applicants will make their applications through the appropriate U.S. consulates in their home countries. Fortunately, we can do that from the CNMI, although there will be a final interview at the consulate in the home country. Extensions of these visas can be made through USCIS, but for CNMI traders and investors, that is in the future.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Confidentiality agreement

I am writing to express our concern regarding the news published on the Aug. 11 and 18 issues of *Saipan Tribune* regarding the 2009 audit of the PSS and our letter to PSS management.

As a public auditor, our company should not release any audit information directly to the press or anybody else aside from the auditee's management, those in charge of governance and cognizant agencies such as OPA and federal grantors. The recent articles published directly quoted the reports we have issued, which are not yet publicly available, and it appears to the readers that these information came directly from our office and our managing partner, Mr. J. Scott Magliari. We appear to have breached our confidentiality agreement with our client.

We would appreciate it if you could publish a clarification on the source of the news reports.

Perlie Tolentino-Santos
J. Scott Magliari & Co.

Editor's Note: It is the Saipan Tribune's policy not to reveal the identities of its confidential sources but just to clarify this matter, our source for the PSS audit stories is not J. Scott Magliari & Co., nor any of its employees or officials.

Fools in government

The economic situation in the CNMI going south is a fact facing all the people of the CNMI. We must remind legislators that the budget under consideration must level the playing field for all and no one should be given any greater share than necessary and no one should be given any special exception. Also, public trust is sacred and no public official should be toying with it as people continue to suffer and face dismal uncertainty during hard times as it is today. Public officials in the Legislature, Judiciary, Executive Branch and trustees in independent boards and commissions should know that their primary duty is to protect the public trust under their jurisdiction. Those who do not take the public trust seriously cannot hide when they do not play a fair game and play by the rules. The Bible makes references to people who are in government positions who failed in their public duty and took the other path for all the wrong reasons; it calls them "fools." Let these elected and appointed leaders stop

for a moment and go through a process of reflection and think deeper and wider. When they realize that the suffering of the people is mounting and continuing, their souls will make their minds work with compassion and empathy. This is all that we ask of these public officials.

In the next round, I will spell out to them what the Bible says about "fools" taking advantage and toying with the suffering of those who are in need and powerless. Believe me, elitists in government will need to kneel on their knees and pray for guidance and advice. But if they all do the right acts to fulfill their duty, we need not expose their weaknesses. After all, your connection to God is a "personal" journey, venture and dealings driven from the inside out, but only if you keep a pure heart and faith.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

RENEWAL

From Page 10

deserve your success. If your new self-image is not firmly planted in our mind, you may find yourself slipping back into old habits and moving toward your old self-image.

A similar process can be used to overcome the negative patterns created by a

group of people that have a common cause such as families, organizations and communities. The leader of the group must initiate the renewal process and act as the group's RAS to help initiate change through positive transformation in the shared culture, values, and beliefs. It's more difficult because there are always dissenters who want to rock the boat and maintain the current situation, but the journey can be worthwhile if the final outcome is consistently






communicated and kept at the forefront of the group's mind.

With a change in your life, family or business, you will have a change in the way you think and interpret the world around you. You will develop new neural pathways that override your negative programming and old habit patterns. It is possible to change and renew yourself. As Napoleon Hill said: "Whatever the mind can conceive, and believe, it can achieve."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89 ▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲90 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲56 ▼52
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼62
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲57 ▼43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼80
New York	Cloudy	▲82 ▼68
Osaka	Sunny	▲95 ▼82
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼58
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲89 ▼69
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲81 ▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲59 ▼52
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼77
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼79
Washington, DC	Rain	▲75 ▼70

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:49 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
9:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	
5:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
10:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough northwest of Yap and Palau extends southward from 19N133E to 14N133E then turns southwestward to beyond 13N130E. Winds converging near the trough axis are combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers a few thunderstorms within 120 miles of a line from 18N132E to 12N134E. An upper-level trough extends southwestward from an upper low centered northeast of Wake Island at 25N172E to another low west of Wake Island at 17N160E then extends northwestward to beyond 25N145E. Convergence south of a low-level circulation northeast of the Marianas is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within an area bounded by a line from 25N143E to 16N148E to 19N154E to 25N152E back to 25N143E. Similar weather is found west of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 18N159E to 19N165E and east of Wake Island between 18N and 24N from 172E to 177E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers west of Chuuk within 70 miles of a line from 7N148E to 7N152E and south of Chuuk within 50 miles of a line from 2N150E to 4N152E. Similar conditions are also found east of Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 3N171E to 9N171E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:35 PM	1:07 AM
Friday	3:25 PM	2:01 AM
Saturday	4:11 PM	2:54 AM
Sunday	4:53 PM	3:46 AM
Monday	5:32 PM	4:36 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 16, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 3:20pm 5:55pm Daily DL289 4:35pm 7:10pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL290 9:45am 2:20pm Daily DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:10am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA DL640 7:40am 10:20am Daily	NAGOYA-SAIPAN DL641 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5	BEIJING-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am +1 4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:10pm Daily via NRT DL640/629 7:40am 10:35pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C09599/PR111 9:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN DL630/641 6:30am 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO DL172/288 7:40am 1:10am+1 Daily via NRT C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Gulf surface cleaner, but questions lurk far below

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Researchers are warning that the Gulf of Mexico oil spill is a bigger mess than the government claims and that a lot of crude is lurking deep below the surface, some of it settling perhaps in a critical undersea canyon off the Florida Panhandle.

The evidence of microscopic amounts of oil mixing into the soil of the canyon was gathered by scientists at the University of South Florida, who also found poisoned plant plankton—the vital base of the ocean food web—which they blamed on a toxic brew of oil and dispersants.

Their work is preliminary, hasn't been reviewed by other scientists, requires more tests to confirm it is BP's oil they found, and is based on a 10-day research cruise that ended late Monday night. Scientists who were not involved said they were uncomfortable drawing conclusions based on such a brief look.

But those early findings follow a report on Monday from Georgia researchers that said as much as 80 percent of the oil from the spill remains in the Gulf. Both groups' findings have already been incorporated into lawsuits filed against BP.

Both groups paint a darker scenario than that of federal officials, who two weeks ago announced that most of the oil had dissolved, dispersed or been removed, leaving just a bit more than a quarter of the amount that spewed from the well that exploded in April.

At the White House on Aug. 4, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief Jane Lubchenco said: "At least 50 percent of the oil that was released is now completely gone from the system, and most of the remainder is degrading rapidly or is being removed from the beaches."

That's not what the scientists from South Florida and Georgia found.

"The oil is not gone, that's

for sure," University of South Florida's David Hollander said Tuesday. "There is oil and we need to deal with it."

University of Georgia's Samantha Joye said: "It's a tremendous amount of oil that's in the system. ... It's very difficult for me to imagine that 50 percent of it has been degraded."

Marine scientist Chuck Hopkinson, also with the University of Georgia, raised the obvious question: "Where has all the oil gone? It hasn't gone anywhere. It still lurks in the deep."

NOAA spokesman Justin Kenney defended his agency's calculations, saying they are "based on direct measurements whenever possible and the best available scientific estimates where direct measurements were not possible." But the vast majority of it is based on "educated scientific guesses," because unless the oil was being burned or skimmed, measurements weren't possible, NOAA response scientist Bill Lehr said earlier this month.

NYC woman to Google: Who's posting trash about me?

NEW YORK (AP)—A business consultant wants a court to force YouTube and owner Google to unmask a cyber cipher who posted what she says are unauthorized videos of her and online comments that hurt her reputation.

Carla Franklin, a former model and actress turned MBA, said in a legal petition filed Monday that she believes a Google user or users impugned her sexual

more in comments made under pseudonyms on a Columbia Business School website. Franklin says someone also posted unauthorized YouTube clips of her appearing in a small-budget independent movie.

Mountain View, Calif.-based Google Inc. said in a statement that it doesn't discuss individual cases to protect users' privacy, but it follows applicable laws.

The postings caused Frank-

lin "personal humiliation" and hurt her professional prospects as she was job-hunting after graduating from the Ivy League business school in 2009, her legal papers say.

The video clips were innocuous but unauthorized, and she found it creepy that someone had unearthed the film and posted pieces in an apparent effort to make her uncomfortable, her lawyer, David M. Fish, said Tuesday.



In this June 23, 2010 photograph, an Amish buggy drives away from the Walmart store in Middlefield, Ohio.

Some stores finding deep discounts aren't enough

NEW YORK (AP)—A dollar for a 40-ounce bottle of ketchup? Yawn. Four bucks for a 12-pack of Coke? No sale.

Even deep discounts on everyday items don't seem to be enough to get Walmart shoppers to bite these days, and other chains are worried Americans won't be in the mood to spend in the months ahead, which are critical for those companies.

On Tuesday, quarterly financial results from retailers including Home Depot and Abercrombie & Fitch showed that profits are rising because retailers are cutting costs and keeping their inventories lean.

But with the economy slowing once again and consumer confidence falling, they expect less out of the rest of the year, and they already have to push harder to get shoppers to buy.

Walmart hopes basics like underwear and socks will bring in financially strapped shoppers. It's also stocking smaller packages for the days leading up to when customers receive their government assistance checks, and need to stretch their last few dollars.

Teen clothes store Abercrombie & Fitch, which slashed prices on some of its jeans by 40 percent to get people to buy

for the back-to-school season, is expected to keep cutting prices through the fall.

At Home Depot Inc., sales are being driven by small repair projects, not big renovations, and weak spending has caused it to cut revenue forecasts for the year. It has added more signs in stores pitching deals like \$19 fiberglass six-panel doors.

At high-end Saks, where even wealthy customers are scrutinizing price tags, is pushing shoes and handbags as a way to update customers' wardrobes without having to buy an entire outfit.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Less flaking, more snowflaking will help pay down debt

By **GREGORY KARP**
THE MORNING CALL (ALLENTOWN, PA.)

If you're in debt, it's time to start thinking about snowflakes.

The idea of "snowflaking" is to make small debt payments, often on a credit card balance, more than once a month.

These snowflakes become part of your debt snowball, a technique by which you pay the minimum monthly payments on all debts except one that you focus on. As you pay off that debt, apply all the money you were paying on it to your next debt, which pays off that one faster, and so on. It creates a snowball effect, as if a snowball was gaining speed and rolling downhill.

The benefit of using snowflakes and a snowball is becoming debt-free quicker and paying far less interest. You'll even be motivated and help your credit score. This is one time when "throwing money at the problem" works.

Here's how to use snowflakes, also called micropayments, and why those in debt should consider it:

■ Call your card company: Most allow you to make many payments in a month for free. Call the phone number on the back of the card and ask about your issuer's policy. "The majority of the major issuers will allow you to do this," said Bill Hardekopf, founder of credit card comparison site LowCards.com.

■ Use regular snowflakes: Set up additional automatic payments to your credit card company. For example, if you get paychecks weekly or biweekly, make payment on the payday. One painless strategy is to pay half your usual amount biweekly. This amounts to 13 monthly payments in a year, instead of 12. "And all of that extra payment goes to pay off the balance. It doesn't go to interest," Hardekopf said. "So, your balance will come down faster."

■ Use irregular snowflakes: Hardcore snowflakers make many small payments in a month. If you skip a \$9.46 lunch out at work, ship that amount to your credit card company. Work two hours of

overtime or get a tax refund? Slap it against the debt. The point is to immediately make a payment with extra money or cash you saved.

Besides erasing debt quicker, snowflaking makes sense for other reasons.

■ You'll save on interest: Most credit card companies assess interest daily on unpaid balances. So paying early saves weeks of interest charges. Month after month, savings add up. And the quicker you get rid of the debt, the less interest you pay.

■ You'll gain motivation: Making more payments forces you to think about your debts more often and gives you a more frequent thrill from seeing balances dwindle. If you

want more motivation, focus the extra payments on debts smallest to largest. That allows you to pay off a few quickly, which can be a big emotional boost, like losing a few pounds in the first week of a diet. If you're more the mathematical type, pay off debts from highest interest rate to lowest.

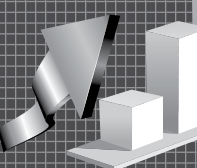
"If you feel, 'Hey, I'm cutting into this,' you can gain momentum psychologically," Hardekopf said. "You might think, 'I'll skip going to dinner this week and take that 20 bucks and tack it onto my credit card payment.'"

■ You'll improve your credit score: For those who carry balances, paying off debt quicker improves their credit score quicker. You might avoid late

payments because you're more focused on the debt. Multiple payments can also help those who don't carry balances. Your credit scores are partly calculated on how much of your available credit you're using at any time. If you use \$4,500 of a \$5,000 available limit, you're penalized by credit-scoring models regardless of whether you pay the balance at month's end. By making multiple payments, you reduce your credit-usage ratio, which accounts for 30 percent of your FICO score.

Gregory Karp is a personal finance writer for The Morning Call newspaper in Allentown, Pa. Readers may send him e-mail at greg.karp@mcall.com.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
10,405.85	1,092.54	2,209.44
+103.84	+13.16	+27.57
+1.01%	+1.22%	+1.26%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	1.1088	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7707
British Pound	0.6437	Indian Rupee	46.6750
Canadian Dollar	1.0332	Indonesian Rupiah	8,970.0
Chinese Yuan	6.7881	Japanese Yen	85.4350
Euro	0.7786	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1625
		New Zealand Dollar	1.4064
		Philippine Peso	45.2450
		Singapore Dollar	1.3566
		South Korean Won	1,160.5
		Swiss Franc	1.0441
		Taiwan Dollar	31.9250
		Thailand Baht	31.6750

Nation

Jury deadlocks on all but 1 charge against Blago



Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his wife Patti arrive at the Federal Court building, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010, in Chicago.

CHICAGO (AP)—A federal jury deadlocked Tuesday on all but one of 24 charges against former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, including the most explosive of all—that he tried to sell an appointment to President Barack Obama's old Senate seat. Blagojevich was convicted on a single count of lying to federal agents, one of the least serious charges.

Prosecutors pledged to retry the case as soon as possible.

"This jury shows you that the government threw everything but the kitchen sink at me," Blagojevich said later outside court. "They could not prove I did anything wrong—except for one nebulous charge from five years ago."

Blagojevich—known for his showmanlike, over-the-top personality—showed no emotion as the verdict was read. Before jurors came in, he sat with his hands folded, looking down and picking

nervously at his fingernails. He and his lawyer said they would appeal the conviction.

The verdict came on the 14th day of deliberations, ending an 11-week trial during which a foul-mouthed Blagojevich was heard on secret FBI wire-tap tapes saying the power to name a senator was "(expletive) golden" and that he wasn't going to give up "for (expletive) nothing."

The count on which Blagojevich was convicted included accusations that he lied to federal agents when he said he did not track campaign contributions and kept a "firewall" between political campaigns and government work. It carries a sentence of up to five years in prison. Some of the more serious charges, such as racketeering, carried up to a 20-year penalty.

Blagojevich vowed to appeal the single conviction and declared

that he was a victim of persecution by the federal government. He told reporters that he wants the "people of Illinois to know that I did not lie to the FBI."

It had been clear jurors were struggling with the case. Last

week, they told Zagel they had reached a unanimous decision on just two counts and had not even considered 11 others. There was no immediate explanation about whether they later disagreed.

AP Exclusive: Terrorist interrogation tapes found

WASHINGTON (AP)—The CIA has videotapes, after all, of interrogations in a secret overseas prison of admitted 9/11 plotter Ramzi Binalshibh.

Discovered in a box under a desk at the CIA, the tapes could reveal how foreign governments aided the United States in holding and interrogating suspects. And they could complicate U.S. efforts to prosecute Binalshibh, who has been described as one of the "key plot facilitators" in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Apparently the tapes do not show harsh treatment—unlike videos the agency destroyed of the questioning of other suspected terrorists.

The two videotapes and one audiotape are believed to be the only existing recordings made within the clandestine prison system and could of-

fer a revealing glimpse into a four-year global odyssey that ranged from Pakistan to Romania to Guantanamo Bay.

The tapes depict Binalshibh's interrogation sessions in 2002 at a Moroccan-run facility the CIA used near Rabat, several current and former U.S. officials told The Associated Press. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because the videos remain a closely guarded secret.

When the CIA destroyed its cache of 92 videos of two other al-Qaida operatives, Abu Zubaydah and Abd al-Nashiri,

being waterboarded in 2005, officials believed they had wiped away all of the agency's interrogation footage. But in 2007, a staff member discovered a box tucked under a desk in the CIA's Counterterrorism Center and pulled out the Binalshibh tapes.



In this undated photo provided by global security research and analysis enterprise Flashpoint Partners, a man who Flashpoint has identified as confessed 9/11 architect Ramzi Binalshibh is shown.

Arizona shelves idea of changing immigration law

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona legislators are setting aside Gov. Jan Brewer's suggestion that lawmakers consider changing parts of the state's controversial immigration law.

Brewer on July 30 floated the idea of making "tweaks" to the law shortly after a federal judge blocked implementation of numerous provisions. Legislative aides said Tuesday the

idea has been shelved, at least temporarily, mainly because of the state's pending appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Everyone agreed ... that it would have been acting in haste to act at this point," said Victor Riches, chief of staff for the House's Republican majority.

There's still a possibility that lawmakers could take

up the issue in the future but nothing is in the works now, Riches added.

Brewer spokesman Paul Seman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Brewer didn't suggest specific changes to the law but expressed a willingness to consider changes in response to the preliminary injunction issued July 28 by U.S. District Judge

Susan Bolton.

Legislative leaders voiced skepticism about Brewer's idea from the get-go but had aides review it before concluding that no immediate action should be taken.

"It's in the middle of the appeal process. We need to see how at least what the 9th Circuit says," said Greg Jernigan, general counsel to Senate Republicans.

Study: 1 in 5 US teenagers has slight hearing loss

CHICAGO (AP)—A stunning one in five teens has lost a little bit of hearing, and the problem has increased substantially in recent years, a new national study has found.

Some experts are urging teenagers to turn down the volume on their digital music players, suggesting loud music through

earbuds may be to blame—although hard evidence is lacking. They warn that slight hearing loss can cause problems in school and set the stage for hearing aids in later life.

"Our hope is we can encourage people to be careful," said the study's senior author, Dr. Gary Curhan of Harvard-affil-

iated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

The researchers analyzed data on 12- to 19-year-olds from a nationwide health survey. They compared hearing loss in nearly 3,000 kids tested from 1988-94 to nearly 1,800 kids tested over 2005-06.

The prevalence of hearing

loss increased from about 15 percent to 19.5 percent.

Most of the hearing loss was "slight," defined as inability to hear at 16 to 24 decibels—or sounds such as a whisper or rustling leaves. A teenager with slight hearing loss might not be able to hear water dripping or his mother whispering "good night."

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 3 arrested in deadly Ind. party shooting

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Police say three people have been arrested on charges related to a shooting at an Indianapolis birthday party that killed two people and injured six others. A police spokesman says a 30-year-old, a 27-year-old and a 21-year-old are jailed on a 72-hour hold while awaiting formal charges. The two older men are being held on preliminary charges of conspiracy to commit murder. The youngest is being held on a preliminary charge of attempted murder and aggravated battery. Police didn't immediately say which of the men are accused of firing shots. The shootings occurred at an Aug. 3 birthday gathering on the city's near west side. A masked man armed with an assault-style rifle opened fire, killing the woman hosting the party and a man who had just arrived.

Craigslist suspect wrote ex-fiancee's name in cell

BOSTON (AP)—A former medical student accused of killing a masseuse he met through Craigslist scrawled the name of his former fiancée on the wall of his cell—apparently in blood—before committing suicide, authorities said Tuesday. The name "Megan" and the word "pocket" were found written above the door in Philip Markoff's cell at the Nashua Street Jail in Boston after he was discovered unresponsive Sunday morning, Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley said. Investigators were still trying to determine the meaning of the word "pocket." Markoff—whose fiancée, Megan McAllister, broke up with him shortly after his arrest last year—used a pen and a sharp piece of metal to fashion a "primitive scalpel" and used it to inflict several wounds in his neck,

arms, wrists and ankles, striking his veins and his carotid artery, and then covered his head and feet with plastic bags that were available to inmates, Conley said.

Police: Texas gunman had explosives in trailer

McKINNEY, Texas (AP)—A 29-year-old man towed a trailer full of explosives into a suburban Dallas police station's parking lot on Tuesday, then set fire to his pickup truck and began shooting at the building in an apparent attempt to lure people outside to kill them, authorities said. Patrick Gray Sharp died after a shootout with officers, but it's unclear whether he was killed by an officer's bullet or one of his own, McKinney police Chief Doug Kowalski said. No one else was hurt during the Tuesday morning clash, which led a local college to lock

down its campus and alert students and faculty to stay home.

Texas executes gang leader for murder of 2 girls

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—The leader of a former gang of Houston teenagers who raped and murdered two young girls walking home from a neighborhood party 17 years ago was executed Tuesday in Texas. Peter Anthony Cantu, 35, was strapped to a gurney in the Huntsville Unit prison death chamber and administered a lethal injection at 6:09 p.m. CDT. He took a single deep breath before slipping into unconsciousness, then was pronounced dead eight minutes later as relatives of his victims, Jennifer Ertman and Elizabeth Pena, looked stoically through a window a few feet from him. Asked by the warden if he had any last statement, Cantu replied: "No." He never

looked at the witnesses, including his victims' parents.

Sheriff: SC mom killed kids, dumped car in river

ORANGEBURG, S.C. (AP)—Investigators didn't buy it when a woman said her two young sons drowned after her car plunged into a river. She ultimately confessed to killing the toddlers, they say—not by dumping them in the water but by suffocating them earlier with her own hands. Broke, jobless and berated by her mother for her failings, Shaquan Duley killed the boys, ages 2 years and 18 months, then strapped their bodies into their car seats before rolling the vehicle into the North Edisto River in a desperate cover-up attempt, authorities said Tuesday. Coroner Samuella Marshall said Tuesday the older boy had bruises that suggested he had been in a struggle.

Asia

Bus crash in Philippines kills 35, but 8 survive

By **OLIVER TEVES**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A packed passenger bus negotiating a downhill curve plunged off a Philippine mountain highway into a 100-foot (30-meter) ravine Wednesday, killing 35 people in one of the country's worst recent accidents, police said.

About eight other passengers, including a 10-year-old

boy, were pulled alive from the twisted wreckage, said police chief Wilben Mayor of Benguet province north of Manila.

Mayor said most of the victims were pinned to death while others were thrown out as the bus tumbled down.

Rescue workers were trying to revive some of the people but it was unclear if they were successful. The victims' remains, including a toddler's, were put in body bags on the highway.

The bus was carrying 47 people from the northern mountain city of Baguio when it crashed in Sablan township, about eight miles (12 kilometers) away. The driver survived with a broken leg.

Conductor John Patrick Flores told The Associated Press by telephone that the brakes on

the bus failed as the driver was negotiating a downhill curve.

He said the driver was aiming to hit a lamp post to stop the bus from falling but missed and it jumped over a foot (30 centimeters)-high road barrier.

"I jumped off the bus to the side of the road before the bus plunged into the ravine,"

Flores said. He suffered only minor bruises.

He said he was the first person to reach the bus and carried the 10-year-old boy with a broken leg up the ravine. Later, local residents helped rescue other passengers, six of whom were brought to hospital in Baguio.

Flores said the bus was

not speeding as it had just dropped off a passenger and picked up another a short distance away from where the vehicle plunged.

Accidents in the area are common because of poorly maintained vehicles. The weather was fine and the highway is in good condition.

Mother renews appeal to name dingo as baby's killer

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—The mother wrongly convicted of murdering her infant after the baby infamously disappeared in the Australian Outback 30 years ago has pleaded for her daughter's death certificate to state that a dingo was responsible.

Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton published an open letter on her website Tuesday—the 30th anniversary of the disappearance of her daughter while the family camped near Uluru, the red monolith in the remote Outback.

"Our family will always remember today as the day truth was dragged in the dirt and trampled upon," she wrote. "But more than that it is the day our family was torn apart forever because we lost our beautiful little Azaria."

The case is one of Australia's most enduring mysteries and became international with the 1988 film "A Cry in the Dark"—for

which Meryl Streep earned an Academy Award nomination for her portrayal of Lindy Chamberlain.

A coroner initially found that a dingo, a type of wild dog, had taken the 9-week-old baby, but that ruling was overturned and her mother was charged with her murder.

Chamberlain-Creighton was convicted in 1982 and sentenced to life imprisonment. Her husband, Michael, was convicted of being an accessory after the fact, with a deferred sentence. Four years later, the mother was released when a piece of Azaria's clothing was found, supporting her claim that the baby was taken by a dingo.

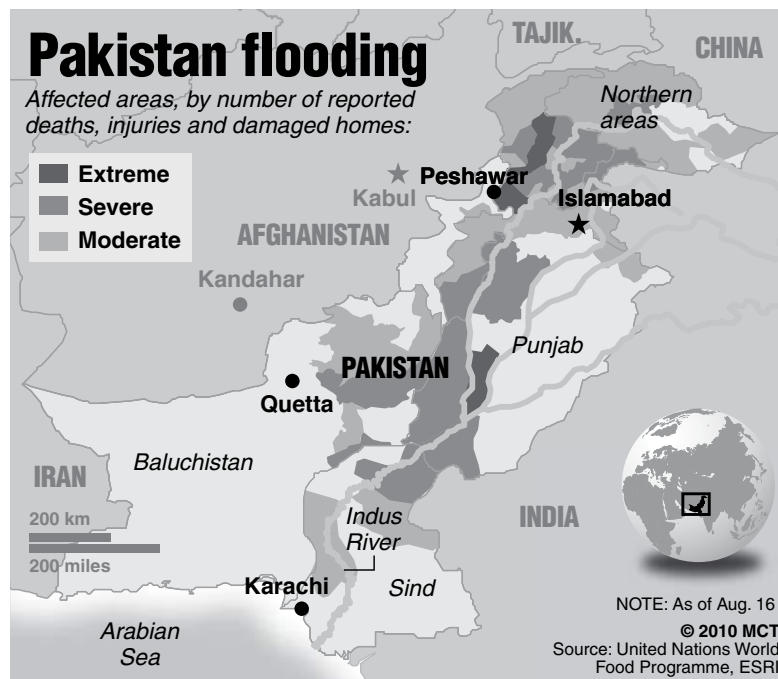
A Royal Commission exonerated the Chamberlains in 1987, but another coroner's inquest in 1995 was unable to make an official conclusion on what had happened to Azaria Chamberlain, leaving the cause of death open.

SHIKARPUR, Pakistan (AP)—Victims of Pakistan's deadly floods mobbed relief trucks carrying food Tuesday and authorities in the north-west warned of famine unless the region's farmers got immediate help with planting new crops.

The floods began three weeks ago, but there is little sign conditions are improving for some 20 million people—or one in nine Pakistanis—who are affected. Tens of thousands of villages remain under water, and officials feared that more flooding could be on the way.

The already shaky and unpopular government has been sorely tested by the disaster, which is complicating the U.S.-backed campaign against Islamist militants. The international community is rushing water, medicine, shelter and aid workers to the country, but aid groups and the British government have complained that the response has been too slow and not generous enough.

President Asif Ali Zardari's reputation sank to new lows after he chose to visit Europe on



a state visit as the crisis unfolded. In a meeting with local aid groups, Zardari acknowledged Tuesday that the disaster response had not been very good.

"Yes, the situation could have been better. Yes, the arrangements could have been made better. Yes, everything could have been better," he said. "We have to move forward despite whatever criticism we get."

The U.N. appealed last week for \$459 million for immediate

relief efforts and has received 40 percent of that so far, said U.N. spokesman Maurizio Giuliano. Another \$43 million has been pledged.

"We would like our pledges to turn into checks as soon as possible because the situation is getting very bad," Giuliano said.

The World Bank said it will redirect \$900 million of its existing loans to Pakistan for use in flood recovery.

For now, people displaced

by high water are living in makeshift camps alongside their livestock or in flooded towns and villages.

"The vast geographical extent of the floods and affected populations meant that many people have yet to be reached with the assistance they desperately need," the U.N. said. It also said the number of children and breast-feeding mothers affected and rising diarrhea cases "point toward a clear risk of malnutrition among the affected population."

The floods have killed about 1,500 people and inundated 1.7 million acres (700,000 hectares) of wheat, sugar cane and rice. Food prices have risen sharply.

"It's all been destroyed. I'll get nothing this year," said wheat farmer Zubair Ahmed in hard-hit Sindh province. "Nobody cares in the government. We're stranded, and they don't even pay attention to us."

Aid distribution in Sindh was chaotic and patchy.

"We have never dealt with a calamity of this magnitude," said Faisal Edhi, who works for Pakistan's largest private welfare organization, the Edhi Foundation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO: 2 wounded Afghan gunmen pose as civilians

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two wounded Taliban fighters tried to pass themselves off as civilian casualties and sought medical attention from U.S. and Afghan troops after a battle in northern Afghanistan, NATO said Tuesday. The alliance says the two were among 10 insurgents wounded or killed during fighting Sunday in Bala Murghab district of Badghis province. The two men, claiming to have been civilians wounded in the clash, asked for medical attention, Marine Sgt. Brian Kester said. Several Afghans identified them as insurgents. "The two men matched exact descriptions given from the team leader on site during the attacks," Kester said. They were treated and taken into custody at a coalition medical facility in the Murghab River Valley, he said.

Vietnam, US hold first ever defense talks

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Former foes Vietnam and the United States held their first ever defense talks on Tuesday, which a senior U.S. official called extremely productive and successful. "I was struck by the open and frank discussions that we were able to have even though this is the first time that this dialogue was held," Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Robert Scher told a joint

news conference with Vietnamese Vice Defense Minister Nguyen Chi Vinh. The talks came as the two countries celebrate the 15th anniversary of their normalization of relations after being enemies in the Vietnam War. Last week, an American warship, the USS John S. McCain, docked in Vietnam and the two navies conducted training exercises—a sign of growing military ties.

Afghan presidential decree bans security firms

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president issued a decree Tuesday ordering private security companies to disband by the end of the year, drawing a warning from the United States that the move could delay reconstruction and development assistance programs. The U.S. and its international partners rely heavily on private security contractors—both Afghan and foreign—to guard supply convoys and protect key installations and personnel. But the role of security operators has become a point of contention between the government and the international community as complaints have mounted that the firms are poorly regulated, reckless and effectively operate outside local law. According to the decree, the tens of thousands of security contractors currently working in Afghanistan will have to either join the Afghan police or cease operations within four months.

Hong Kongers wage campaign against shark fin

HONG KONG (AP)—When Steven Leung and Sylvia Cheung celebrated their nuptials in this southern Chinese financial center recently, they lavished their guests with one sumptuous dish after another—bird nest soup, lobster, abalone.

But one traditional dish was missing from the 13-course Cantonese banquet. The newlyweds chose not to serve shark fin soup.

"I saw the cruelty in shark slaughtering in online videos. The way the fish is dumped back into the water—it is just inhumane," Leung said, referring to the practice of hacking off the fins of sharks, then setting them free.

The Hong Kong couple are part of a growing grass-roots movement in this global hub of shark fin consumption that aims to remove the staple of gourmet Chinese cuisine from restaurant menus.

"Shark fin is not a necessity at



In this photo taken Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010, Joe Chan, chief chef of Sun Tung Lok Chinese Cuisine, prepares shark fin to be cooked in the kitchen of the restaurant, in Hong Kong.

banquets, as long as guests are well-treated and there is good food," said Cheung. "We have great substitutes for the soup that are equally as prestigious and exquisite."

For centuries, shark fin—usually served as soup—has been a coveted delicacy in Chinese cooking, extolled for its supposed ability to boost sexual potency, enhance skin quality, increase one's energy (or "qi"), prevent heart diseases and lower cholesterol.

To prepare for soup, dried fin first is soaked in water overnight, then boiled for several hours to soften the cartilage and remove impurities. It then is cooked in a rich chicken broth with salted ham, mushrooms, dried scallops and abalone. Shark fin itself is tasteless, but has a slippery and glutinous texture.

It's an especially cherished menu item in wealthy Hong Kong, a pricey status symbol for its materialistic and status-conscious people. Depending on the quantity and the quality of the fin in the soup, the dish can cost from \$10 to \$150 a bowl.

World

Bomber kills 61 Iraqis in recruitment drive

BAGHDAD (AP)—Young men from some of Iraq's poorest areas waited all night outside an army recruitment center, only to become easy prey Tuesday for a suicide bomber who killed 61 in the crowd. Desperate for jobs, dazed survivors rushed to get back in line after the attack.

Officials quickly blamed al-Qaida for the deadliest single act of violence in the capital in months. Police said 125 people were wounded.

Bodies of bloodied young men, some still clutching job

applications in their hands, were scattered on the ground outside the headquarters' gate. Soldiers collected bits of flesh and stray hands and legs as frantic Iraqis showed up to search for relatives.

The early morning bombing in central Baghdad starkly displayed Iraqi forces' failure to plug even the most obvious holes in their security two weeks before the formal end of the U.S. combat role in Iraq.

Army and police recruitment centers have been frequent tar-

gets for militants, underscoring the determination of the applicants to risk their lives for work in a country with an unemployment rate estimated as high as 30 percent.

"I have to get this job at any cost in order to feed my family," said Ali Ahmed, 34, a father of two who returned to the bloody street after taking a friend to the hospital. "I have no option but to come back to the line. If there were other job opportunities, I would not be here in the first place."

Ali Ibrahim, 21, who suffered minor shrapnel wounds in the blast, returned to the line after his release from the hospital.

"I came back with my friend to try to get in. We are forced to come back for the sake of earning a living by securing the job," said Ibrahim, who had been waiting since 3 a.m.

Yasir Ali, a 29-year-old re-



cruit, washed blood off his body at a nearby police station and then went back to the line outside the Iraqi army's 11th Division headquarters and recruiting center.

The men waited in vain. The recruitment center was shut down after the attack, and the military said it would not reopen. Even so, some applicants remained there until mid-afternoon.

On the last of a nine-day recruitment drive, Iraqi officials provided only scant security for the estimated 1,000 men hoping to get hired, hundreds of whom had stayed outside the headquarters overnight for a first shot at handing in their job applications.

◀ A victim of a suicide attack waits for a doctor on the floor of the emergency room of a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010. AP

Palestinian who attacked Turkish Embassy captured

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—A Palestinian who broke into the Turkish Embassy in Israel trying to take hostages and demanding asylum was turned over to Israeli authorities late Tuesday, ending a tense standoff.

Seven hours after he forced his way into the embassy, the attacker was escorted out of the embassy and bundled into an Israeli ambulance. Wearing a light blue shirt and limping slightly from an apparent gunshot wound, he raised his arms briefly and shouted before Israeli police and paramedics subdued him.

An hour earlier, the Turkish government said it had the situation in hand.

"Our embassy guards neutralized the individual as he tried to take the vice consul as hostage after shouting around

for asylum," the Turkish statement said, adding he was armed with a knife, a gasoline can and a gun that turned out to be a toy.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor identified the attacker as Nadim Injaz, a Palestinian from the West Bank town of Ramallah. Israeli police said Injaz was recently released from prison after serving time for an attack on the British Embassy four years ago, also to seek asylum.

Channel 2 TV played a recording of a phone call it said came from the attacker.

"I have two hostages," he said in Hebrew. "I will blow up the embassy. ... If they don't let me leave this country now I will burn down the whole building. I will burn everything. I will burn the cars, the doors I will break down the doors. I will break everything."

Girl in coma is worst injured from Colombia crash

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—An 11-year-old girl was in critical condition with a brain hemorrhage Tuesday, the worst injured survivor as investigators sought clues to why a jet carrying 131 people crashed while landing in a thunderstorm.

Only one of those aboard died, while at least 20 people remained hospitalized from the accident early Monday on the Colombian resort island of San Andres.

Survivors said everything

seemed normal as the plane roared in toward the airport while lightning flashed outside the windows. Suddenly the jet slammed into the ground, the fuselage shattering and sliding onto the runway. Many called it a miracle they emerged unscathed.

"We have to give thanks to God," said Hernando Hernandez, a 49-year-old accountant who survived along with wife and 11-month-old daughter. "It's another op-

portunity at life."

Authorities said at least 13 survivors, including four with serious injuries, were flown to Bogota for treatment.

The critically injured Colombian girl, Maria Camila Angarita, suffered a broken pelvis and a brain injury, and was in an induced coma at a Bogota hospital, said Luis Guillermo Cantor, the hospital's manager.

Dozens of other passengers were treated for minor cuts, bruises and other injuries and

released from hospitals and clinics on San Andres.

President Juan Manuel Santos said he would fly to the Caribbean island Wednesday to thank firefighters, police and others who helped passengers out of the wreckage.

"It's a miracle, as many people have called it," Santos said in a statement. "But a miracle that also was not only a work of God, but also of the help of many people who contributed so that this wouldn't be a tragedy."

Experts: Russia heat, smog trigger health problems



A newly constructed house is seen in Verkhnyaya Vereya, a village in the Nizhny Novgorod region, some 300 kilometers (187.5 miles) east of Moscow, Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010, where all 341 homes were burned to the ground and five residents were killed during the forest fires in early August. AP

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian health experts warned Tuesday that unprecedented heat and suffocating smog from wildfires will lead to more suicides, higher rates of alcohol abuse and other problems, and they accused the government of failing to address the long-term health dangers.

The hottest summer since records began 130 years ago has sparked thousands of fires in Russia, mostly in the western part of the country, and smoke from wildfires around Moscow again clouded some parts of the Russian capital, even though firefighters have scored successes in containing the blazes.

The number of deaths recorded in Moscow had doubled to an average of 700 per day during the worst of the scorching heat and smog, city officials said.

Boris Revich, a medical expert at the Moscow-based Institute for Economic Forecasts, said 5,840 more people had died in Moscow in July than during the same month last year. He said the report came from the city registry office, but it did not list ages or causes of death.

"The main reasons seem to be heart and respiratory diseases,"

Revich said at a news conference Tuesday.

Even though the heat wave was expected to break later in the week, he said long-term health risks remained.

"This heat has affected all organs, including respiratory and endocrine systems, and we should expect more cases of diabetes, suicides, alcohol-related nervous breakdowns," Revich said.

Official data on the number of suicides and medical conditions related to the heat wave are not available yet, he said.

Another expert deplored what he called the lack of long-term emergency planning in health care.

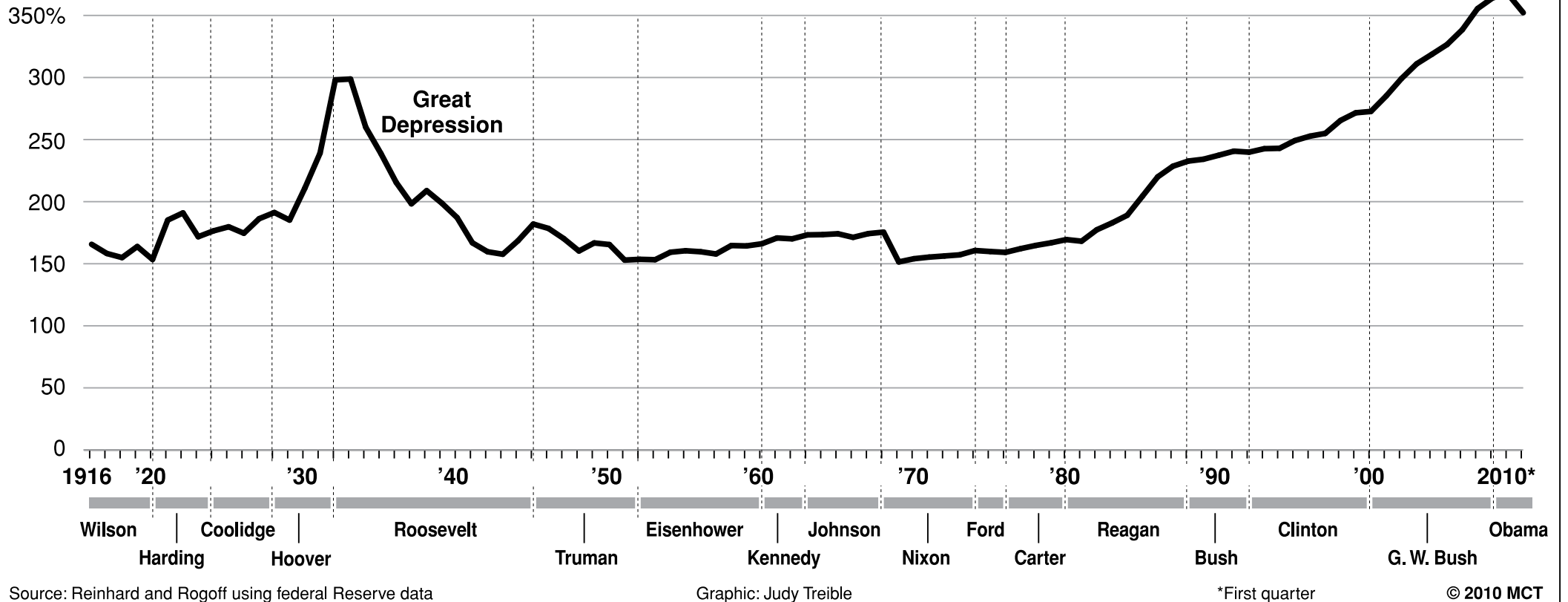
"We never care to work with a future perspective in mind," Alexei Skripkov of the Federal Medical and Biological Agency said. "It's a big systemic mistake."

He said that European nations such as Germany and France were quick to upgrade their health care policies after the unprecedented heat wave in 2003. Russian officials have failed to take similar measures, even though peat bog and forest fires have burned around Moscow in the past.

Focus

A century of U.S. debt

Total public and private U.S. debt as a percent of GDP (includes debt for government at all levels, businesses, families and individuals):



Debate rages over US national debt

By KEVIN G. HALL and ROBERT A. RANKIN
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—The national debt is rising to levels that have never been seen in the United States during peacetime. Everyone agrees that it must come down. The question is how fast. Too fast could weaken the already weak economy. Too slow could do the same thing.

When the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office updates its 2010 Budget and Economic Outlook on Thursday, it will renew debate over the debt.

Deficit hawks argue that radical steps must be taken now to reverse the soaring debt. This year's federal budget deficit alone is expected to close the fiscal year Sept. 30 in a range between a staggering \$1.3 trillion and \$1.42 trillion. That's about six times President Ronald Reagan's biggest deficit, and he was blasted as a dangerous budget-buster.

The annual deficit is the gap between tax revenues and the government's spending in a year. The government covers the gap by borrowing, which raises the national debt. Today U.S. debt held by the public totals almost \$8.8 trillion. Include money the government owes its trust funds, such as Social Security, and the number swells to \$13.3 trillion.

Paying interest on that much debt wastes resources, the hawks argue. It makes America dependent on foreign lenders. The debt also threatens to drive up interest rates, and to swallow so much capital that the private sector is starved of investment, leading to economic stagnation.

Liberals argue that the United States is markedly different from other economies that suffered debt crises, so we're not in the same danger. Because the U.S. dollar serves as the world's reserve currency, and because the U.S. is the world's largest economy, many other economies depend on it, so they'll finance our debt.

Liberals also argue that reducing deficits and debt must wait until the

U.S. economy has recovered its vigor, or debt reduction will risk kicking the economy back into recession.

Two prominent economists who published an acclaimed study last year of 800 years of national financial crises, *This Time Is Different*, see flaws on both sides of today's argument. The debt must be dealt with, they say, but not too fast.

Their book concludes that when any nation's ratio of government debt to gross domestic product exceeds 90 percent, negative economic consequences

and pull the plug and have an adjustment that could derail what fragile recovery we do have."

However, she cautioned, "the whole thing that we can disregard debt because we're the U.S. is really grasping at straws. Taxpayers need to understand the tradeoff, and that is, we're going to be paying for this in terms of lower growth in the future."

There are contemporary examples: Latin America's "lost decade" of the 1980s and Japan in the 1990s illustrate how long periods of stagnation

are for the U.S., for modern financial markets," he said. "It seems rather incautious simply to assume that we're nowhere near any limits and there's no reason to be concerned about it."

"The simple fact is that U.S. debt is running at a very high level; what are the policy implications one can debate," Rogoff said. Neither he nor Reinhart advocates radical moves, but "there is some question on how fast to bring down the deficit," he said.

The CBO, the budget analysis arm of Congress, effectively acknowledged both

"It's remarkable the extent to which the U.S. is following the past, deep postwar financial crises. I think the big issue is really what's happening three or five years out. Growth back to normal is a really big question mark," Rogoff said.

John Irons isn't as worried. An economist with the liberal Economic Policy Institute, he co-authored a paper in late July that argued that Reinhart and Rogoff are overreaching. The researchers fail, in his mind, to prove that debt buildup causes slow growth instead of the reverse.

"That's the piece that I don't think is supported by the data," Irons said in an interview.

Given that the U.S. economy has suffered through the most profound financial shock since the Great Depression, he said, it's obvious that debt levels have risen sharply. It will take a sustained effort of government spending, Irons said, to help growth return to the levels that bring in tax revenues that bring down deficits.

"I think this (Reinhart and Rogoff) paper has done damage. ... It creates a target where you start crafting fiscal policy that is somewhat arbitrary," he said.

Reinhart and Rogoff acknowledge that their research has been used to support political arguments on both sides, but they maintain that the United States needs to adopt measures that signal to financial markets that the government is serious about bringing down the debt in a reasonable time frame.

But beyond the government's role, Rogoff cautioned, other factors help determine growth.

"A lot depends on how productivity (worker output per hour) evolves, the interaction of globalization and technology. There are a lot of patterns besides fiscal policy that are going to determine how we grow," he said.

Although deficits during or shortly after a recession generally hasten economic recovery, persistent deficits and continually mounting debt would have several negative economic consequences for the United States.

historically follow. Today's U.S. debt-to-GDP level is 89 percent.

The U.S. must reduce its debt or suffer economic stagnation, they said in interviews with McClatchy Newspapers, but in the short term they also favor more government stimulus to boost the economy, even if that raises the debt a bit more.

"We may need another stimulus bill just to decompress from the previous one, a smaller one to cushion the landing," said Kenneth Rogoff, a Harvard University economist and a co-author of the book.

Added his co-author, Carmen Reinhart, a University of Maryland economist: "I'm not one of those deficit hawks. ... I'm not saying you run out

follow financial crises and huge debt overhangs.

The pair rejects arguments that past financial crises don't apply to the United States

"I think what it is here is the 'This Time Is Different' syndrome," Reinhart said, referring to an oft-repeated attitude that precedes financial crises brought on by too much debt. "It's one thing to say the U.S. can carry a higher debt ratio without having insolvency. That we understand. But there is not evidence to suggest that the U.S. is going to do better than anyone else growth-wise at higher debt ratios."

Rogoff agreed.

"We don't really know one way or the other how different the numbers

arguments in an issue brief July 27.

"Although deficits during or shortly after a recession generally hasten economic recovery, persistent deficits and continually mounting debt would have several negative economic consequences for the United States," it said.

Once a nation's debt-to-GDP ratio passes 90 percent, the scholars said, investors worry about the government's ability to repay. They demand higher rates of return for buying new debt. The cost of servicing debt soars, and investment and consumption are dampened, leading to stagnation.

The two were careful to note that they don't think a full-blown debt crisis is imminent, but they fear that the U.S. economy is entering a danger zone.

Environment

Tanapag lad learns the value of his heritage

By JORDAN SUEL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Alii and Tiroow Waami! I am Jordan Suel, a fisherman from Tanapag and a student at Eastern Oregon University. I am pursuing a degree in Natural Resource Management at EOU. This summer I was given the opportunity to learn and work at Coastal Resources Management through the 2010 Coral Reef Initiative Summer Internship Program.

CRM's program complements my field of study and drive to protect our ocean. I was placed with CRM's Marine Monitoring Team, or MMT. The CNMI MMT department consists of marine technicians from both CRM and the Division of Environmental Quality who study our islands' marine ecosystem for the management of our reef resources. They conduct several types of surveys all around the CNMI to determine the status of populations of marine life. The summer program



Jordan Suel, from Tanapag, is pursuing a degree in Natural Resource Management at the Eastern Oregon University. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

has motivated me to work even harder with my studies, provided the opportunity to learn about the specifics of the CNMI's reef resources, and showed me about the overall importance of this type of work in the CNMI.

Growing up by the Tanapag reef taught me about our cultural dependence on the ocean, college taught me about the importance of preserving it, and my experience with CRM has shown me techniques to protect the CNMI's marine resources. My concerns with the marine environment increases each day I work with the MMT. I participated in reef flat surveys, and learned how to properly count marine life. During reef flat surveys I would identify and count the different species at specific sites all around the island. This process allows us detect changes to evaluate and manage multiple ecosystems and recognize threats at specific environments.

Tagging turtles and counting the marine life allows MMT to

keep track of the population at each site.

After furthering my education and gaining more experience in natural resource management, I will return to Saipan and give back to our island community. As the marine life and environment is a major part of our indigenous culture, I plan to help with the preservation and protection efforts of our bountiful natural resources.

The 2010 Coral Reef Initiative Summer Internship Program and my mentors John Starmer, David Benavente, and Rodney Camacho, have not only provided a summer internship but have given me a better understanding of what I need to do to help their efforts with managing our resources for future generations. They are not just great role models, but family. I hope to return with a degree, continue to work with the MMT and ensure paradise on Saipan.

Sulang, Ghilisow to CRM.

DO YOUR PART

Turn used ink cartridges into money

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Did you know that Americans use hundreds of millions of ink and toner cartridges for printers

every year? And, estimates are that 70 percent of those are being sent straight to our landfills. This is enormously wasteful and unnecessary. These predominately plastic containers filled with ink

are easily refilled or recycled. In fact, there are now a number of places that will actually pay you to recycle your used ink and toner cartridges.

Most cartridges are made of

plastic, a by-product of oil, but recycling them often involves little more than taking them apart, replacing any damaged parts, refilling and testing them. It's clear that it is cheaper for



MCT

Recycling or remanufacturing ink and toner cartridges is becoming a big business.

manufacturers to refurbish these parts rather than pay for a new one. This creates savings for them that are passed on to you and me, the consumers.

Today, recycling or remanufacturing ink and toner cartridges is becoming a big business. So much so, many companies are paying anywhere from a few cents up to \$20 or more for your used cartridges. At DoYourPart.com/Columns you will find a number of online sources that will pay for used cartridges. They'll even provide a pre-paid shipping label. This is great fundraising opportunity for small groups or schools and includes an eco-friendly lesson about recycling.

If you would rather trade in your cartridges and toners in person, Office Max, Staples and Office Depot will give you the equivalent of a \$3 store credit for every accepted cartridge you recycle. You must belong to the retailers' rewards program to earn cash and there are limits to how many and how often you can bring in cartridges for money.

For the consumer looking

to buy ink or toner cartridges, going with refilled or recycled cartridges cost 30 to 70 percent less than new. You will want to buy from a reputable retailer to ensure a quality product and you'll also want to make sure that using recycled cartridges won't affect the warranty on your printer. I recently discovered an online source that not only offers a warranty and free standard U.S. shipping, they also make a donation of \$2 to \$5 to help save homeless pets for every cartridge purchased. You can learn more at RecyclingForPets.com

Throwing used printer cartridges in the trash is almost like throwing money out the window. Refilling and recycling these items is another way to Do Your Part to reduce your eco-footprint and save some green in your wallet.

Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more everyday green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com

Where germs hide

No room in your house is immune to germs. Here's a guide to help you know where to look and how to best clean your home to be safe:

Utility room

Washing machines can harbor germs such as E. coli; occasionally run an empty washer on the short cycle with a 1-to-20 bleach and water mix to sanitize

Bathroom

Beyond the obvious germ factories like the toilet and tile floors, bacteria thrive in the wet environs of the bathroom; toothbrushes, the bottom of the tub, sponges, loofahs, and bath towels can each host multitudes of harmful germs

Bedroom

Dust mites feed on the millions of dead skin cells we shed while asleep; bedding should be washed in hot water weekly, and, for added protection, use allergen covers for mattresses, box springs, and pillows

Living room

Remote controls are germ havens, especially those used in the kitchen while cooking; carpets should be vacuumed and upholstered furniture thoroughly cleaned to keep dust mites at bay — and also germs your family or pets may carry in from outside

Kitchen: germ central

The kitchen sink is by far the most germ-ridden spot in the house; the drain should be cleaned weekly with a stiff brush and dish soap; cutting boards, countertops, refrigerator handles, kitchen and dining tables, washrags, sponges, and tile floors should also be thoroughly cleaned to prevent contamination

All over the house

Use antiseptic wipes or a soapy washcloth to sanitize the objects you constantly touch — like keys, door knobs, telephones, computer keyboards, cabinet pulls, light switches, and faucets — and frequently wash your hands

Life & Style

BANGKOK (AP)—A group of dancing policemen has become the latest pop sensation in Thailand with a YouTube video that shows them shimmying and swinging their hips as they impersonate a popular South Korean boy band.

The video was posted Aug. 5 and had more than 280,000 views Tuesday when major newspaper front pages declared it “a major hit” and one tabloid exclaimed: “Police set the dance floor on fire.”

“We never thought it would become this big,” said Lt. Col. Tanakorn Doltanakan, one of nine officers in the five-minute video spoof of “Sorry Sorry,” a considerably bigger hit by Korean boy band Super Junior. “It’s something we did just for fun.”

The policemen are part of the 4th Subdivision of Thailand’s Tourist Police, set up for non-Thai speaking tourists who need police help, in the northern city of Chiang Mai. Ahead of a tourism-related police seminar earlier this month, attendees were asked to prepare for a police talent show.

The 4th Subdivision, which went on to win the competition, sought inspiration from

Dancing Thai police star in a new YouTube video

By KINAN SUCHAOVANICH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



In this photo taken on Monday Aug. 16, 2010, Krittaya Brown, right front, a daughter of a Thai Tourist Police officer, teaches Tourist Police officers how to dance in Chiang Mai, north of Bangkok.

one of its more memorable assignments.

“We took care of Super Junior when they toured in Chiang Mai and saw how popular the group is,” Tanakorn said.

Super Junior is one of South Korea’s most famous boy bands, known for their boyishly polished looks and synchronized dance routines that have earned them heartthrob status

across Asia. Their version of the video has been viewed more than 6.5 million times on YouTube.

After a short clip introducing the officers, the police switch their standard-issue brown uniforms for Miami Vice-style black suits, open-neck white shirts and dark sunglasses.

Slightly clumsy, not terribly fit but trying their determined best, the officers strut in hip-hop poses as they clap and gyrate and attempt to dance in synch to the song’s electronic beat.

The number was choreographed by the 14-year-old daughter of a sergeant in the unit and filmed by another officer’s nephew. They rehearsed for two to three hours before going in front of the camera.

Witness: Dangerous drug doses prescribed for Smith

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A pharmacist testified Tuesday he refused to fill a request from two doctors for drugs he believed would have killed Anna Nicole Smith if taken in the doses prescribed.

Ira Freeman, who identified hundreds of prescription he filled for the Playboy model over five years, said he drew the line on Sept. 15, 2006, when he received a faxed request from Dr. Sandeep Kapoor.

The doctor was forwarding a letter from psychiatrist Dr.

Khristine Eroshevich seeking six heavy duty painkillers, opiates and muscle relaxants in large amounts, Freeman said.

“My impression was it was excessive dosing,” he said, “and if they were going to use this level there would be fatal consequences for the patient.”

Kapoor, Eroshevich and Howard K. Stern have pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring to unlawfully provide excessive drugs to Smith, prescribing to an addict and obtaining false prescriptions involving

the use of fake names. They are not charged with Smith’s death from an overdose in 2007.

Under questioning by Deputy District attorney Renee Rose, Freeman said the six drugs he refused to supply included Dilaudid, Soma, Ativan and Methadone. Each drug was to be provided either in bottles of several hundred pills or in liquid form with syringes.

Freeman said he called Kapoor’s office because, “I was concerned about the amounts being requested and looking

at them had made a decision that I was not going to supply these meds.”

Freeman said he told Kapoor: “I wouldn’t fill this request and you won’t find a pharmacy in California that will fill it.”

He added, “I may have said this is pharmaceutical suicide,” but that comment was stricken from the court record by the judge who had asked that witnesses omit inflammatory remarks.

Freeman said Kapoor’s only response was “OK” before he hung up the phone.

Celebrity surgeon Frank Ryan killed in car crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Celebrity plastic surgeon Dr. Frank Ryan, who made headlines for performing multiple surgeries on reality TV star Heidi Montag, has died. He was 50 years old.

The California Highway Patrol says Ryan’s 1995 Jeep Wrangler went off the side of Pacific Coast Highway near Malibu and landed on its roof Monday afternoon.

Besides Montag, Ryan’s celebrity clientele included musician Vince Neil, actor Lorenzo Lamas, reality stars Lisa Gastineau and Adrienne Curry and several models and beauty queens.

Montag, who underwent 10 procedures in one day with Ryan late last year, took to Twitter to share her reaction to his death.

“I am devastated,” the 23-year-old wrote on the micro-blogging site Tuesday. “He

was the most amazing person I have ever known. He was an angel and changed my life and the lives of everyone he met. He was the most brilliant talented surgeon who will ever exist. Dr. Frank Ryan changed the world.”

The Ventura County medical examiner’s office said an autopsy would be performed Tuesday. He said no cause of death has

been established.

Ryan’s friend and client, model and reality star Janice Dickinson, was “deeply, deeply anguished” after hearing of the doctor’s death, her publicist said.

“She is stunned and wants the world to know what a genius Dr. Ryan was,” publicist Brad Taylor said Tuesday. “Her love goes out to his mother and

the rest of the family.”

Curry said in a statement Tuesday that she and Ryan shared “in-depth conversations about him wanting to start a family of his own, now that he had a very successful career.”

Ryan operated on her twice, she said, adding, “I considered him a friend.”

Ryan was a close friend of boxer Oscar De La Hoya, and attended all his fights from 2002 until De La Hoya’s retirement last year.



Ryan

Erykah Badu gets fine, probation for Dallas strip

DALLAS (AP)—A city spokesman says singer Erykah Badu has paid a \$500 fine and will serve six months of probation for stripping during a music video shoot at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, where President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot in 1963.

Badu performed a walking

striptease March 13 for her “Window Seat” music video. The video ends with a nude Badu falling to the ground as if she has been shot.

Police in April cited her for disorderly conduct after a witness made a sworn complaint. A number of children were

among the tourists and other random passers-by seen on the video.

Dallas city spokesman Frank Libro says Badu paid the fine Friday.

A spokeswoman for the singer did not immediately comment.

Music giving Arroyo a new level of satisfaction

MIAMI (AP)—Carlos Arroyo was headed to play a game with Puerto Rico’s national team earlier this summer, when a song he particularly liked started blaring on the radio.

His own song.

The Miami point guard hasn’t had much spare time this summer, what with playing for his country, working out a new deal to remain with the Heat—plus writing and recording his own music, a part-time gig that’s turning into something more. Arroyo’s new release is called “Se va Conmigo,” which translates into “She’s coming with me,” and it’s one of the hottest new songs on the reggaeton charts.

“It’s my hobby, but like my wife said, at first it’s a hobby and now you’re doing music videos,” Arroyo said. “It’s a

different satisfaction that I get out of it.”

The single, which Arroyo recorded with fellow artist Yomo at a South Florida studio just after this past Heat season ended, recently was one of the top 20 offerings among Latin sales on iTunes. The music video will start getting sold on iTunes around the end of this week, and Arroyo says he’s as proud of his off-court work as his real job.

And yes, there’s plans for his music career to continue after his playing days end.

“I’ll definitely do some more,” Arroyo said. “The people have embraced the song very well back home. I’ll be honest, I’m really happy with what the song has done on iTunes. It’s been a blessing. And I’m moving forward with this.”

Funeral Announcement Edward Aldan Ayuyu

Was born to life on April 20, 1960
And was called to his eternal rest of August 14, 2010

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: Jose Cruz Ayuyu
Mother: Margarita Agun Aldan
Father-in-Law: Wenceslao Delfin
Mother-in-law: Generosa A. Delfin
Reared By: Pedro Santos Blas
Brothers: William, William, Ramon, Alexandro, Jose, and Lorenzo Lolita Delfin

He is survived by his:

Wife: Janelyn D. Ayuyu,
Children: Ann Margaret D. Ayuyu
Angelo D. Ayuyu

Brothers & Sisters:

Felix & Rosalinda Ayuyu, Antonia A. Ayuyu, Virginia & Fred Imperial, Emilio & Sindy Ayuyu, Maria A. & Jian Min Han, Sophia A. & Assaduzzaman, Leonora A. Blas & Willie Castro

Sister-in-Laws & Brother-in-Laws:

Ana Lozada, Bernadino A. Delfin, William A. & Denai Delfin, Emilene & Rustico Salazar, Wenceslao A. & Carolina Delfin, and Alejandro A. Delfin & Lina Santiago

He is additionally survived by numerous Nephews, Nieces, Grand Nephews, and Grand Nieces

Daily Mass is being offered at Santa Soledad Church at 6:00pm followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, August 21, 2010 his remains will be escorted from Cabrera Funeral Home Center at 7:00am to Santa Soledad Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

The Family

Angelina Jolie urges aid for flood-hit Pakistan

LONDON (AP)—Angelina Jolie says it's vital that people help Pakistan's flood victims and not surrender to compassion fatigue.

The floods have displaced 20 million people, but donations are below those for catastrophes

like the Haitian earthquake or the Asian tsunami.

Jolie said she understood that "it is getting hard for people — they see Haiti, they see these other events ... and they get exhausted by the time another big

one rolls around."

But she said Pakistanis face "mass death, mass displacement, and this situation is going to get worse."

Jolie has visited Haiti, Iraq and other countries as a U.N.

goodwill ambassador.

The star says she might visit Pakistan once "the cameras go away."

Jolie spoke Monday at the London premiere of her spy thriller "Salt."



AP
U.S. actress Angelina Jolie arrives for the British Gala premiere for the film 'Salt', at a central London cinema, Monday, Aug. 16, 2010.

Knightley, Worthington drama to close Toronto fest

TORONTO (AP)—Keira Knightley and Sam Worthington are slated to be the closing attractions at September's Toronto International Film Festival.

"Pirates of the Caribbean" actress Knightley and "Avatar" leading man Worthington star alongside Eva Mendes in the marital drama "Last Night," announced Tuesday as the closing-night film for the festival, which runs Sept. 9-19.

Other premieres newly added to the lineup include director

Clint Eastwood's "Hereafter," a drama about mortality starring Matt Damon; Dustin Lance Black's "What's Wrong With Virginia," with Jennifer Connelly as a mentally troubled woman whose son tosses a wrench into the election campaign of a local politician (Ed Harris); and Dan Rush's "Everything Must Go," featuring Will Ferrell as a motivational speaker staging a colossal lawn sale after his life falls apart.

Director Danny Boyle, whose

"Slumdog Millionaire" played Toronto in 2008 and went on to win best picture at the Academy Awards, returns to the festival with "127 Hours," a mountain-climbing survival tale starring James Franco

Also in the lineup: Casey Affleck's documentary "I'm Still Here," chronicling brother-in-law Joaquin Phoenix's retirement from acting to pursue a hip-hop music career; Matt Reeves' "Let Me In," starring Chloe Moretz ("Kick-Ass") in

an English-language remake of the vampire tale "Let the Right One In"; Mitch Glazer's "Passion Play," with Mickey Rourke, Megan Fox and Bill Murray in the story of a down-and-out jazz trumpeter and a woman born with wings who works as a carnival sideshow attraction; and John Carpenter's "The Ward," featuring Amber Heard as a woman tormented by evil forces in a mental institution. A major showcase for upcoming films, the Toronto festival has featured such Oscar winners as "American Beauty," "Crash," "The Last King of Scotland" and "Brokeback Mountain."

All cool for Ice-T in NYC unlicensed-driving case

NEW YORK (AP)—Ice-T came out on top in a brush with real-life law and order Tuesday when prosecutors dropped unlicensed driving charges against the rapper-turned-TV detective.

"That's what I'm talking about—dismissed!" he called out in a Manhattan courtroom after a judge did just that to the misdemeanor case, which had prompted some choice words about police from the "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" actor.

"Like I said from the gate, I never broke the law," Ice-T said as he left court with his wife, Coco, a model.

Ice-T, 52, was arrested after a traffic stop of his 2009 Cadillac on Manhattan's West Side on July 20; he and his wife were on the road after taking their bulldog, Spartacus, to a vet for knee surgery. Police said they pulled the entertainer over for not wearing a seatbelt—which he contests—and

a routine check showed his license was suspended.

He said he had a valid New Jersey driver's license and took to Twitter to call the officer who arrested him a "punk," and a few considerably less polite things, for "arresting the Notorious Ice T for no seatbelt."

The actor has played Detective Fin Tutuola on "Law & Order: SVU" since 2000, but he hasn't always identified with police: His 1992 song "Cop Killer" drew protests from police groups, among others. He said the song was an attempt to shed light on police brutality but ultimately agreed to remove the track from his album "Body Count."

Prosecutors said Tuesday that New York Department of Motor Vehicles records wrongly reflected that his license was suspended because of a lack of insurance, when his car is in fact insured and registered in New Jersey.

Ice-T, born Tracy Marrow, registered and insured his three cars in New Jersey after moving there from New York in 2008 and turned in his New York license plates, said his lawyer, Eric Franz. He said the actor's business managers sent that information to the New York DMV shortly after his move.

But it was "not reflected in the Department of Motor Vehicles' computerized records," Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Jessica Barron told a judge.

DMV representatives didn't immediately return a telephone call.

Ice-T said he had no clue his license had been marked as suspended.

"That's why I was so angry," he said. "It basically turned out to be a clerical error."

He took to Twitter again to let fans know the case was dismissed and thumb his nose at "all the haters that wished against me."

Dr. Laura plans to end radio show at end of year

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dr. Laura Schlessinger, the talk show host who recently apologized for saying the N-word 11 times to a caller on the air, said Tuesday she plans to give up her radio show when her contract is up at the end of this year.

The conservative advice maven made the announcement on CNN's "Larry King Live," saying she wants to "regain her First Amendment rights."

Schlessinger said she's not retiring or quitting. Instead, she said, she feels stronger and freer to say what she believes needs to be said.

"I want to be able to say what's on my mind and in my heart and what I think is helpful and useful without somebody getting angry—some special interest group

deciding this is a time to silence a voice of dissent and attack affiliates and sponsors," she said.

Schlessinger apologized last week for saying the N-word several times in an on-air conversation with a caller whom she accused of being hypersensitive to racism. She said on her website that she was wrong in using the word for what she said was an attempt to make a philosophical point.

"To imagine that there are people who refuse to accept an apology because they have an agenda and would like me silenced—I'm done with that," she said.

During the on-air exchange, Schlessinger said the caller, who said she was black and married to a white man, was too sensitive for complaining that her husband's

friends made racist comments about her in their home.

Schlessinger told King she "never called anybody a bad word" and "wasn't dissing anybody."

Corinne Baldassano, an executive with Schlessinger's production company, Take on the Day LLC, said the talk show host plans to pursue opportunities through her website, books, podcasts and a YouTube channel.

At least two national sponsors of her radio program, General Motors Co., and Motel 6, owned by Accor SA, have pulled out, Baldassano said.

Previously, Schlessinger's negative comments about homosexuality on her television show in 2000 inspired gay activists to campaign to get her off the air.

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	Vampires Suck	Synopsis Vampires Suck is a comedy about contemporary teen angst and romance movies. Becca, an anxious, non-vampire teen, is torn between two boys. Before she can choose, Becca must get around her controlling father, who embarrasses Becca by treating her like a child. Meanwhile, Becca's friends content with their own romantic issues — all of which collide at the prom.
	Thursday 4:15 7:15	
	Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi Comedy • Rated PG 13	

	The Expendables	Synopsis Sylvester Stallone gears up for a men-on-a-mission film with the Nu Image/Millennium Films war picture, The Expendables. Jason Statham and Jet Li co-star alongside the brawny filmmaker as a group of mercenaries who undertake a near-impossible operation to overthrow a dictator in South America. Mickey Rourke, Forest Whitaker, and UFC star Randy Couture co-star in the action-packed production.
	Thursday 4:10 7:20	
	Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham War • Rated R	

	The Other Guys	Scott Pilgrim Versus The World	
	Thursday 4:20 7:10		Thursday 4:05 7:05
	Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell Comedy • Rated PG 13		Michael Cera, Chris Evans Adventure • Rated PG 13

	Salt	Charlie St. Cloud	
	Thursday 4:25 7:25		Thursday 4:30 7:30
	Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber Thriller • Rated PG 13		Zac Efron, Kim Basinger Drama • Rated PG 13

	Inception	Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore	
	Thursday 7:00		Thursday 4:00
	Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13		Alec Baldwin, Chris O'Donnell Children's, Family • Rated PG

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AP
In this Jan. 19, 2009 file photo, actress Rooney Mara of "The Winning Season" poses for a portrait at the Gibson Guitar Lounge during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Lawsuit over Nirvana catalog sale settled

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show a management firm and Courtney Love have settled a \$1 million lawsuit over the profits of the sale of Nirvana's publishing catalog.

Love is the widow of former Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain. London & Co. sued Love two years ago, claiming she failed to share the earnings of a deal in which sold a portion of Nirvana's catalog for nearly \$20 million.

Court records show attorneys for London & Co. and Love told a judge last Wednesday that they had settled and the case was dismissed.

The Hole frontwoman has controlled many of the rights to Cobain and Nirvana's work since his suicide in Seattle in 1994.

Love's attorney, James Janowitz, confirmed the settlement but said he could not provide any further details.



ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Brazil honors 'Girl from Ipanema' writer

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Brazil has posthumously given the rank of ambassador to a poet and songwriter who penned the famous Bossa Nova anthem, "Girl from Ipanema." The Foreign Ministry bestowed the honor on Vinicius de Moraes, a one-time diplomat who was the poetic force behind Bossa Nova in the 1960s. Moraes was first posted to Los Angeles in 1946 as a vice consul. His other postings took him to Paris and Rome. A gregarious character—he was married nine times—Moraes embodied the free-spirit of his native Rio de Janeiro. It was that lifestyle that led Brazil's military dictatorship to expel him from the diplomatic corps in 1969. On Monday, he was permanently reinstated. Moraes died at age 66 in 1980.

Escapist fare popular during a quiet TV week

NEW YORK (AP)—Escapist fare from the big broadcast networks dominated a quiet week in television viewing. The Nielsen Co. said Tuesday that two editions of NBC's "America's Got Talent" were the only prime-time programs to eclipse the 9 million mark in viewers last week. Three editions of CBS' "Big Brother 12" landed in the top 12 most-watched shows for the week. Nielsen says ABC's "Wipeout" and the summer finale of Fox's "Hell's Kitchen" were also among the most popular shows. ABC's premiere of "Dating in the Dark," which tests couples' compatibility when they can't see each other, reached only 4.4 million people last week.

Rooney Mara joins Daniel Craig for 'Dragon Tattoo'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Newcomer Rooney Mara has landed one of the most-coveted roles in Hollywood, co-starring alongside James Bond star Daniel Craig in the English-language remake of "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo."

Sony Pictures announced Monday that Mara, 25, will play Lisbeth Salander, a fearless genius tormented by a terrible childhood, in the crime thriller based on the first book in Stieg Larsson's best-selling series.

Craig is portraying journalist Mikael Blomkvist, who teams up with Lisbeth to

delve into a string of decades-old murders.

"Dragon Tattoo" is directed by David Fincher, who cast Mara in "The Social Network," a drama about the founders of Facebook due in theaters Oct. 1.

Along with television guest spots on "ER" and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," Mara's credits include roles in this year's remake of "A Nightmare on Elm Street" and the upcoming sports comedy "The Winning Season." "Dragon Tattoo" begins shooting next month in Sweden and is due out Dec. 21, 2011.

After overdose, Fantasia back to promoting new CD

NEW YORK (AP)—A week after an overdose, Fantasia is back to promoting her new album.

In a statement released Monday, Fantasia says she "can't thank my fans enough for their prayers and support during such a challenging time." The singer overdosed on aspirin and other pills at her home in Charlotte, N.C., last week.

Her manager says she wasn't trying to kill herself, but police believed they were



Fantasia

responding to a suicide attempt. The overdose came days after a woman accused Fantasia in court documents of having an affair with her husband.

The former "American Idol" winner will make TV appearances, including stops at "Good Morning America" and "Live with Regis & Kelly," in the next couple weeks to promote her third album. The CD, titled "Back to Me," is out on Aug. 24.

Spike Lee screens new Katrina film in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Spike Lee screened portions of his follow-up documentary about Hurricane Katrina in front of a big crowd at Mahalia Jackson Theater in New Orleans.

The premiere Tuesday included hours one and four of the HBO documentary, "If God Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise." It airs on Aug. 23 and 24. Among those attending were Mayor Mitch Landrieu and New Orleans Hornets star guard Chris Paul.



Lee

Lee also produced "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts," after Katrina struck in August 2005.

In the new movie, Lee returns five years later to see how plans to rebuild New Orleans have played out.

It also touches on the Saints' Super Bowl victory and details

the impact of the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill on people who have yet to fully recover from the hurricane.

Picasso show draws huge crowds to NYC's Met Museum

NEW YORK (AP)—Pablo Picasso is as popular as ever. An exhibition of 300 works by the Spanish modernist drew more than 700,000 people to The Metropolitan Museum of Art between April 19 and Aug. 15. That makes it the most highly attended show since 2001. The museum announced Tuesday that "Picasso in The Metropolitan Museum of Art" was the seventh-most attended show since it began tracking exhibition attendance 50 years ago. It averaged 6,700 visitors per day. The smash show featured paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics by the artist, who died in 1973. "Seated Harlequin" from 1901 and "The Actor" from 1904-1905 were among the masterpieces on view during the 17-week exhibition.

Ted Nugent pleads no contest to deer baiting in CA

MARYSVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Rocker and celebrity hunter Ted Nugent will have to pay a \$1,750 fine after pleading no contest in California to baiting a deer and not having a properly signed hunting tag. California Department of Fish and Game spokesman Patrick Foy says game wardens saw Nugent kill an immature buck on a February episode of his Outdoor Channel TV show "Spirit of the Wild." Investigators found that the deer had been eating bait called "C'mere Deer." Baiting wildlife is illegal in California. Nugent originally faced 11 charges, including killing a deer too young to be hunted. In a deal with Yuba County prosecutors, Nugent's attorney on Friday entered no contest pleas to the two misdemeanors. Nugent did not appear in court.

Man's need for 'me time' casts a pall on 'us time'

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Kate" for a year. She's caring and down-to-earth. We have so much in common, and time goes by quickly when we're together.

That's why, when a new job brought Kate closer to my place, I told her she could stay with me, so her commute would be less stressful while she gets used to the job and learns her way around. I enjoy making us dinner, since I get home two hours before she does.

After being single and living alone for six years, I want a relationship. Maybe in the future I'll want her to move in with me. We spend weeknights together and go out as a couple every weekend. But I also like "my time" and "my night out."

I am a part-time publicist for an entertainer and try to keep up with the local music and club scene. Two nights out alone during the month work for me. I share the details with Kate—including the crazy things I see "singles" do when I'm out. I have explained to her how spending these nights on my own makes me appreciate her more when I return. But I feel a distinct "chill" from her when my night arrives.

I have no problem with Kate doing a "girls' night out" on those evenings. Am I wrong to want alone time? Am I not committed enough to this relationship?

REASONABLE GUY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR REASONABLE: It's not wrong to want some time independent of Kate, particularly since it relates to your business. Her cool reaction may be related to her insecurities with your relationship, as well as the "crazy things" you're describing when you get home.

It may have been a mistake to invite Kate to stay with you without a deadline after which you expect her to find her own place. Under the circumstances, she may think your relationship has progressed further than it really has.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I cannot think of anyone else to turn to. I attend church, but don't know a priest well enough to confide in him.

I have been married 45 years. My wife and I have a very good sex life. My problem is, over the past year my curiosity has increased about what it would be like to be with another man. I don't have anyone in mind. I try not to think about it, but the idea excites me.

I enjoy looking at attractive women, but often find myself wanting to give the other a try. Please help me find an answer before I try something stupid. Abby, I hope you can offer me some advice in your column.

ANONYMOUS IN DAYTONA BEACH

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Everyone has sexual fantasies, and although yours have recently been homosexual fantasies, it does not necessarily mean that you would enjoy an encounter with another man. Because you say you have a "very good sex life" with your wife, you may have some bisexual leanings. However, 45 years ago you promised at the altar to be faithful to your wife. So I'll offer the same advice I would have given to Adam if he had written me back then: Don't take a bite of that apple because it could get you evicted from Eden.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What do you say to people when you have a child in jail and they don't know? Should you lie and say everything is fine?

EAST COAST MOM

DEAR MOM: It depends upon how well you know the people and how much personal information you're comfortable revealing about your family. But I don't think you should lie because that kind of news has a way of traveling.

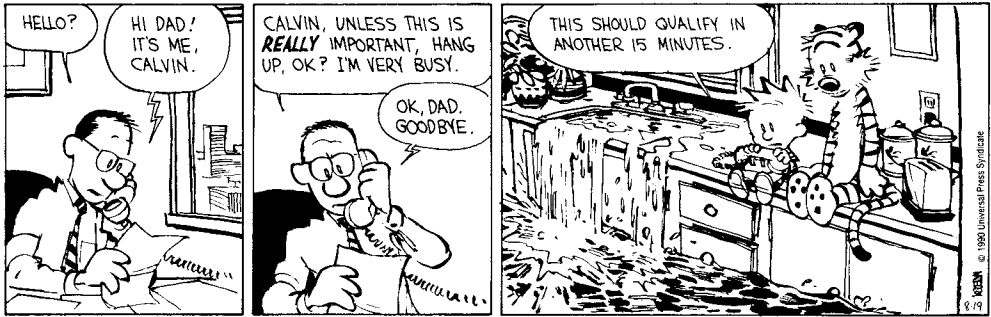
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



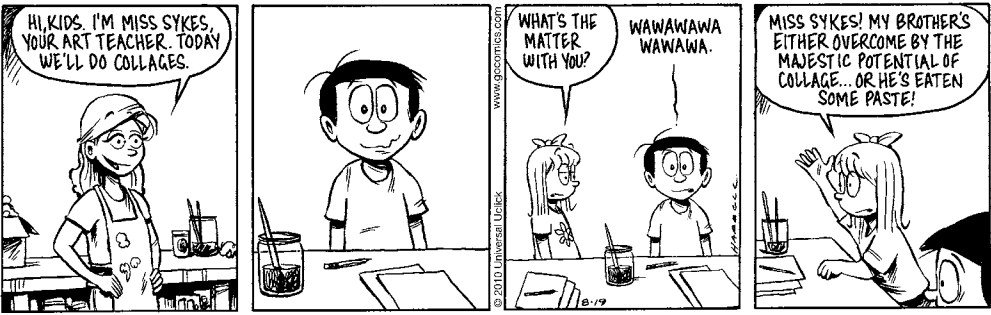
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Unopened roses

5 "Oh, woe"

9 Hair goop

12 Persisting

13 Crooked

14 Past

15 Identifier of a sort

17 Swab

18 Spanish wine

19 Actress

21 "Forget it!"

22 Dr. Salk

24 Martial art

27 Long March leader

28 Hoodlum

31 Loser to Ghana in the 2010 World Cup

32 Mischievous tyke

33 Raw rock

34 Office part-timer

36 "Miserables"

37 Do laps in the pool

DOWN

1 Prohibits

2 Hexagonal

3 One thin

4 Buffet

5 With skill

6 Meadow

7 Picnic intruder

8 Unyielding

9 "Jeopardy!", e.g.

10 Holly

11 Bound

16 Expert

20 Dine

22 New Testament book

23 "My bad"

24 Protrude

25 Work with

26 Barry

27 Marathons

29 Spoonbender

30 Idaho, the

35 Zero-star review

37 Get angry

39 Trumpet feature

40 Chest protector

41 Actress Jessica

42 Stench

43 Fedora material

44 Munro pseudonym

45 Even

46 "The King"

49 Help

50 Miss Piggy's pronoun

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-19

GOLF DES OBIS
OMAR UGH CEDE
UNDERAGE AVOV
PISTOL MORELS
PAS ATM KNACK
SNUB YAM AGUE
INFRA POP ERG
FOND TAM
GYRATE ICARUS
ROAD COVERAGE
URGE ODE DILL
BEEN YDS IDYLL

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Perry, 41; Kyra Sedgwick, 45; Kevin Dillon, 45; John Stamos, 47

Happy Birthday: There will be opportunities but if you are consumed with what's going on around you, you can't take advantage of them. Strive for greater patience. Uncertainty regarding finances should not hold you back. An original approach will help you find your way. Your numbers are 2, 12, 16, 26, 29, 32, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have trouble making a decision. Don't let anyone pressure you. A partnership may be on the line, but if you give in you will lose leverage. Stick to your plans and move forward even if it's on your own. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There is much to be done through communication, travel and interacting with experienced people. Networking will help you present your own ideas, giving you a better indication if you are on the right track. Your enthusiasm will make a positive impression. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Now is not the time to sit back, watching life pass you by. Love is in the stars, so be sure to leave your evening hours open for an intimate moment with someone you love or someone you meet. Socializing will lead to a serious, thought-provoking conversation. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A burden involving a child or older relative appears to be developing in your household and may result in additional responsibilities. If

you don't have time to take on extra duties, have another solution in mind. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have plenty to look forward to if you make plans to do things with friends, a lover or new people you meet. Expect to attract the attention of someone who interests you and can contribute to something you are about to do. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't worry so much about what is happening at home. Everything will calm down if you are intent on pursuing what makes you happy. It's time for a change of scenery. You may want to rethink getting back together with an old partner. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have lots to consider before making a decision that will influence your personal life and your future. This is not the time to let your emotions run wild or to impulsively jump into something that screams caution. Uncertainty will prevail; look at all the facts. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may feel the need to help others but, before doing so, please help your own cause. The changes brought about by your hard work will result in opportunities to help others in the future. Don't give in to someone from your past. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your dedication will pay off professionally. It's all in the way you approach the people in key positions. Your charm and hype will persuade others to take a chance on you and what you have to offer. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotional matters will escalate. You will be dragged into a conversation you probably want to avoid. It may not be pleasant but it's best to put things behind you. Face the music and tell it like it is. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Work at getting ahead financially. You can draw up contracts or make a commitment to someone that can change your life. Don't be daunted by what others are asking you to do. Love is in the stars. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep things simple and doable if you want to maintain your status quo. It's important not to embellish or make promises you cannot possibly keep. Focus on partnerships and what you and the other person can offer one another. ****

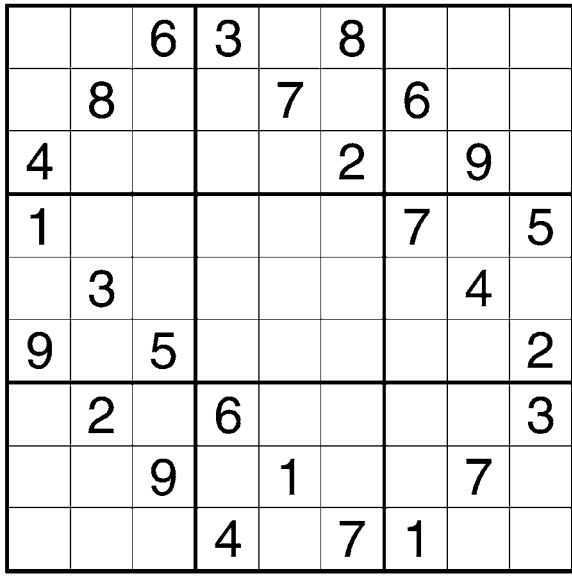
Birthday Baby: You are passionate, playful and a quick learner. You have class and finesse and strive to look and be your best.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

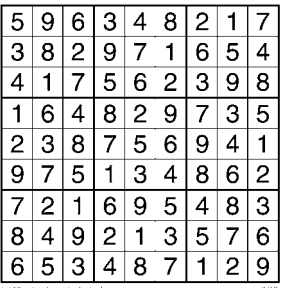


Difficulty Level ★★★

8/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

8/19

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MOORISH ARCHITECTURE

Solution: 7 letters



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Alhambra, Arab, Arts, Baths, Beauty, Blend, Captivating, Carmenes, Carvings, Cathedral, Cordoba, Courtyards, Decorative, Details, Elaborate, Elegant, Generalife, Granada, Granite, Historic, Horseshoe, Iberia, Islam, Monuments, Mosque, Nature, Ogee, Plaza, Roof, Sevilla, Site, Structure, Tile, Tiencen, Tourist, Tower, Vaults, Wall
Yesterday's Answer: Narrate
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Pro-Se Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE] FCD-AD NO.
ADOPTION OF] 10-0415

F.K.Q.N.] NOTICE

By:] OF

FRANCINE Q.] HEARING
NEKAI,]
Petitioner.]

THE PETITION for adoption of
the minor child shall be heard on
the 7th day of October, 2010 at
1:30 pm in the Guma Hustisia
Courtroom No. 205A.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th
day of August, 2010.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo
Associate Judge

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Favre is back in Minnesota



EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Brett Favre is back in Minnesota, right on schedule.

For the second year in a row, the quarterback who spends his summers on the verge of retirement was driven to Vikings headquarters on the Tuesday following the team's first pre-season game. Just like last August, news helicopters followed his vehicle from a local airport and dozens of fans and media gathered at the entrance to Winter Park to greet him.

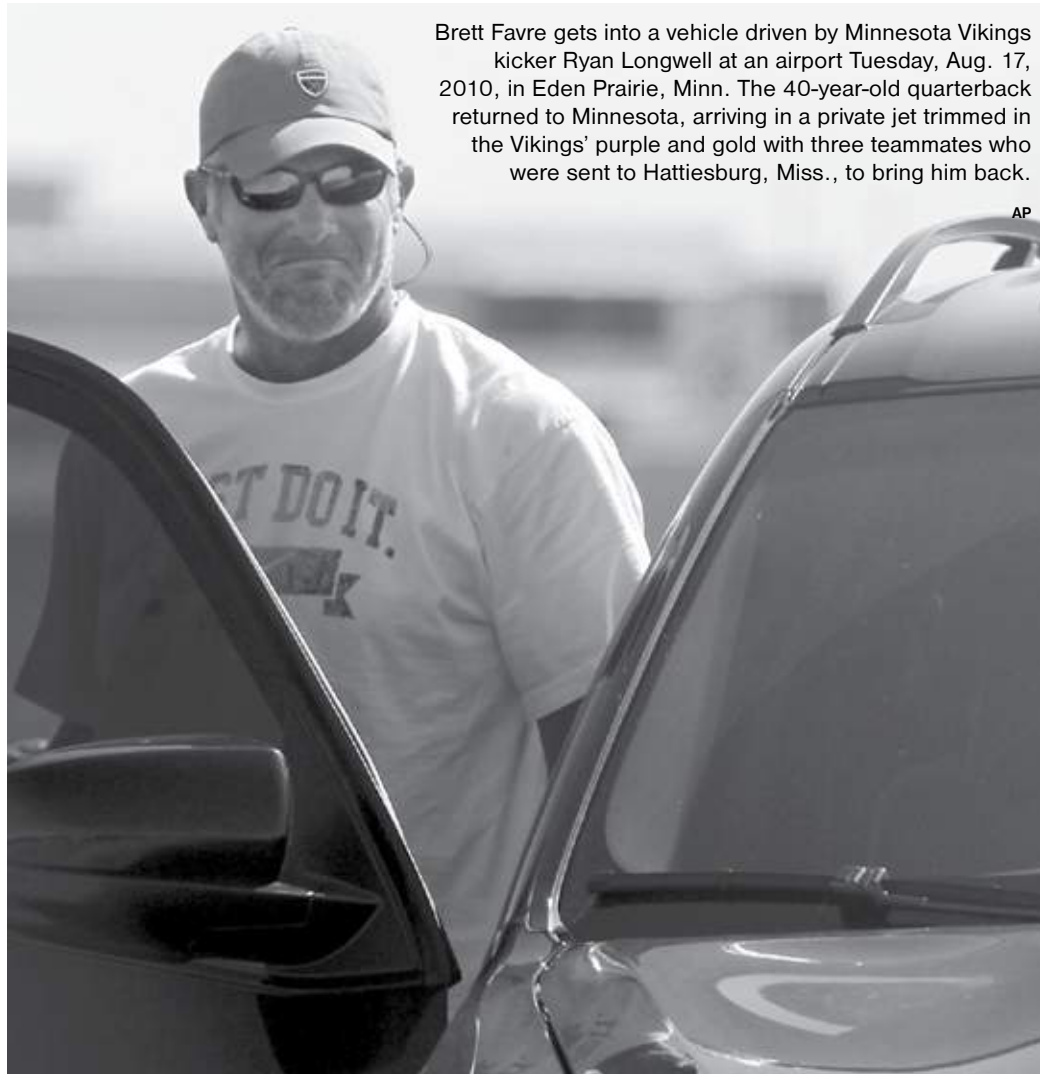
"Circus in Winter Park," tight end Visanthe Shiancoe tweeted.

Nothing the Vikings haven't seen before.

On Aug. 18, 2009, Favre boarded a private plane from Hattiesburg, Miss., and arrived in Minnesota. Coach Brad Childress picked him up and brought him to the team facility. He practiced the same day and suited up for a preseason game three days later.

This time around, the Vikings sent three of Favre's closest friends on the team - Jared Allen, Ryan Longwell and Steve Hutchinson - to Hattiesburg to bring him back for one more shot at a Super Bowl.

Longwell filled the role of Favre's chauffeur and three local television stations broke into programming to show the kicker's black BMW SUV rolling



Brett Favre gets into a vehicle driven by Minnesota Vikings kicker Ryan Longwell at an airport Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2010, in Eden Prairie, Minn. The 40-year-old quarterback returned to Minnesota, arriving in a private jet trimmed in the Vikings' purple and gold with three teammates who were sent to Hattiesburg, Miss., to bring him back.

AP

ing down the road.

"Helicopters acting like they are following O.J.," Shiancoe tweeted. "Where is the bronco."

Longwell pulled into the team complex as the fans cheered and

photographers snapped pictures, whisking him to a back entrance.

"Brett Favre for President!!" receiver Bernard Berrian tweeted.

Favre's website posted a message earlier saying "stay tuned for breaking news from the Minnesota Vikings today on Brett Favre's possible return."

Presumably, Favre did not

make the trip just to tell the Vikings he was retiring, but the team issued no formal confirmation that the star quarterback was taking back his starting job. He is, however, under contract - the second season in a two-year, \$25 million deal.

The Vikings instead issued a media schedule for Wednesday, announcing that coach Brad Childress will hold his regular news conference following practice. The team also said that a "media availability with QB Brett Favre is to be determined."

Favre will turn 41 in October and has flirted with retirement for years, while playing for the Green Bay Packers, the New York Jets and now the Vikings. He threw 33 touchdowns and seven interceptions last season to help Minnesota reach the NFC title game.

The three-time MVP had been thinking about hanging it up again this year after injuring his ankle in January's NFC championship loss to New Orleans. He had surgery on his left ankle in June, and told teammates and some team officials earlier in August that it hadn't healed enough for him to return for a 20th NFL season.

Yet no one in the organization fully bought into that - partly because they went through a similar ordeal in 2009.

Last year, Favre told the team on the eve of training camp that he was going to stay retired only to return the Tuesday after their first preseason game. The Vi-

kings played their first exhibition game of 2010, a 28-7 win over the Rams, on Saturday and will visit San Francisco on Sunday night this week.

Not to mention, soon after Favre showed signs of waffling this year, his agent said he'd play if he was healthy.

Tarvaris Jackson was in line to be the starting quarterback if Favre had not returned, and he said after practice that he wasn't bothered by hearing that some of his higher profile teammates flew to Mississippi to try to woo Favre.

"I feel like if my number's called I'm going to be ready," Jackson said after practice. "And I'm going to continue to try to work hard and get better. That's all I can do."

If Favre proved anything last year, it's that skipping training camp is no big deal for him. He delivered one of his finest seasons and brought the Vikings to the brink of the Super Bowl.

He took a beating at the Superdome, yet still threw for 310 yards and a touchdown. But he also threw two interceptions, the last one in Saints territory at the end of regulation that cost the team a chance a game-winning field goal try.

Now, after another summer of indecision and another (classic) rock star-like arrival, it appears that Favre is back for one more shot at a second Super Bowl title.

"That's definitely a sign," Shiancoe tweeted, "that the 2010 season is here!"

Nuggets mull what to do about Melo



DENVER (AP)—Just how much longer will Carmelo Anthony play for the Denver Nuggets?

He can opt out of his contract after the upcoming season and become the headliner of the 2011 free agent class or he could play out the final two years of his contract and put off the wine-and-dine tour for a year.

He could sign a three-year, \$65 million extension that's been on the table all summer and would keep him in Denver through 2015.

Or maybe he's already played his last game for the Nuggets, who don't want to be spurned like the Cleveland Cavaliers were when LeBron James went on national TV to divorce them for a fresh start in Miami.

The All-Star forward who won a national title as a freshman at Syracuse and a gold medal at the Beijing Olympics—but has been able to guide Denver out of the first round of the playoffs just once in his seven NBA seasons—could be dealt before the season starts if team owner Stan Kroenke decides to jump-start a rebuilding program.

With a sign-and-trade deal, 'Melo would get the money he may not be able to earn with a new collective bargaining agreement while the Nuggets land players to help them get on

with life after 'Melo.

Kroenke might choose to deal the face of his franchise at the February trade deadline, too.

The secluded owner likes to operate out of the public limelight, so his intentions aren't clear.

Neither are Anthony's.

Some observers, however, see plenty of signs pointing toward his exit:

He didn't jump at the chance to sign his extension.

He's put his 25,000-square-foot mansion in suburban Denver up for sale.

At Anthony's New York wedding to television personality LaLa Vazquez this summer, New Orleans point guard Chris Paul reportedly toasted the newlyweds by predicting a future Knicks dream team made up of himself, Anthony and Amare Stoudemire to counter the one in South Beach featuring James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

Anthony, who grew up on the East Coast, dismisses the Big Apple speculation as "rumors."

"I've been hearing that for five years. So, rumors," he said last weekend at his annual basketball camp. "I'm a Denver Nugget. I'm here. I'm with the Nuggets. I don't become a free agent until next year, if I decide not to take that extension."

Like any competitor, Anthony wants to win a ring, and the Nuggets have slipped back into

the pack a year after reaching the Western Conference Finals, where they had the eventual champion Los Angeles Lakers on the ropes.

When coach George Karl had to take a sabbatical in March to fight throat cancer, the Nuggets floundered under assistant Adrian Dantley and were bounced in the first round of the playoffs by Utah.

They parted ways this month with Mark Warkentien, the NBA's Executive of the Year in 2009 after engineering the Allen Iverson-Chauncey Billups trade, and Rex Chapman, vice president of player personnel, and they have yet to replace them.

Karl hopes to return to the sideline in September, his fitness and stamina permitting, and he'll find a team struggling to regain its own health.

The Nuggets don't know when Kenyon Martin and Chris "Birdman" Andersen will be recovered from offseason knee surgeries, so their desire for a big man took center stage this summer.

They were unable, however, to move back into the draft this summer to grab a big man, then struck out in their dogged pursuits of free agents Jermaine O'Neal, who went to Boston, and Udonis Haslem, who stayed in Miami.

So, they decided to change

LeBron tells GQ he isn't sure Gilbert ever cared

MIAMI (AP)—Adding a new layer to the rift between LeBron James and Dan Gilbert, the NBA's two-time reigning MVP and new Miami Heat forward has told GQ magazine that he isn't sure the Cleveland Cavaliers owner "ever cared" about him during their time together.

In an article released Tuesday, James spoke of how widespread criticism of his decision—and how he chose to make it a television event—is fueling him this offseason, plus reiterated how Ohio will always remain his home.

But perhaps his sharpest words were reserved for Gilbert, the owner who lashed out at him shortly after James announced that he would be joining the Heat.

"I don't think he ever cared about LeBron," James is quoted as saying. "My mother always told me: 'You will see the light of people when they hit adversity. You'll get a good sense of their character.' Me and my family have seen the character of that man."

Gilbert did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

James made similar remarks on the night Miami signed him to a six-year contract, doing so while sitting alongside the other two legs of the Heat superstar triangle, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

Gilbert was clearly scorned by James' choice, firing off a now-infamous letter to Cleveland fans describing it all as "a shameful display of selfishness and betrayal." He called James "narcissistic" and "self-promotional" and vowed the Cavaliers would win a championship before "the self-titled former king."

Further, in an interview the same night with

The Associated Press, Gilbert said he felt James quit on Cleveland during the 2009 and 2010 playoffs. Gilbert was ultimately fined \$100,000 by the NBA for what commissioner David Stern said were comments that fell into the category of being "a little extreme."

In the GQ article, James took exception to the "quitter" tag.

"Every night on the court I give my all, and if I'm not giving 100 percent, I criticize myself," James said.

He added that he's looking forward to seeing the Cavaliers as opponents this season.

"I do have motivation," James told GQ. "A lot of motivation."

Among other highlights from the article:

■ James said he wouldn't change any part of "The Decision," the made-for-TV event in Greenwich, Conn. where he announced his playing plans to an audience of about 10 million viewers. The hourlong show made \$2.5 million for Boys & Girls Clubs. "When I found out I had an opportunity to do that for those kids, it was a no-brainer," James said.

■ Despite his feuding with Gilbert, James thinks that if he could ever play for the Cavaliers again someday, it would be "a great story."

■ James explained he's always had an uneasy relationship with Cleveland because he's from Akron, a half-hour away. "It's not far, but it is far," James said. "And Clevelanders, because they were the bigger-city kids when we were growing up, looked down on us. ... So we didn't actually like Cleveland. We hated Cleveland growing up. There's a lot of people in Cleveland we still hate to this day."

the way they play.

They signed Al Harrington, a power forward who likes to run and shoot and will start at power forward with Nene, who is com-

ing off a leg injury in the playoffs, moving to center.

That means the Nuggets will have to play a run-and-gun style like Mike D'Antoni's old

Phoenix Suns teams when the season starts.

In which case, they'd love to have Anthony's 28 points a game.

Famed home run hitter Bobby Thomson dead at 86

NEW YORK (AP)—We've heard the frenzied call forever, echoing through baseball lore. "The Giants win the pennant! The Giants win the pennant!"

Bobby Thomson, the man immortalized with his "Shot Heard 'Round the World" in 1951, died Monday night at his home in Savannah, Ga. He was 86 and had been in failing health for several years, the Fox & Weeks funeral home said Tuesday.

He was a good player, not a Hall of Famer. Yet on that October afternoon, with one swing, Thomson transformed a pennant race for one season into a baseball moment for the ages.

He hit perhaps the sport's most famous home run, connecting off Ralph Branca for a three-run drive in the bottom of the ninth inning that sent the New York Giants over the Brooklyn Dodgers in the decisive Game 3 of their National League playoff.

The drive into the left-field stands at the Polo Grounds and broadcaster Russ Hodges' ecstatic declaration—four times shouting "the Giants win the pennant!"—remain one of the signature moments in major league history.

"I never thought it was going to be that big. Hell, no," Branca told The Associated Press from his home in suburban New York. "When we went into the next season, I thought it'd be forgotten."

"I'll miss him," Branca said.



From left, New York Giants' Bobby Thomson, Larry Jansen and Sal Maglie celebrate their win over the Brooklyn Dodgers, and the National League pennant, at the Polo Grounds in New York. Thomson hit a three-run homer scoring Jansen and Maglie to win the game 5-4. Famed home run hitter Bobby Thomson died Monday night, Aug. 2010. He was 86.

"I mellowed over the years and we became good friends. I enjoyed being around him."

A three-time All-Star as an infielder and outfielder, Thomson hit .270 with 264 career home runs and 1,026 RBIs from 1946-60 with several teams. He led the league in a hitting category only once, and that was for triples.

But the fly ball that flew over the wall vaulted "The Flying Scot" to a place of almost mythic status. There have been plenty of historic home runs

over the years - Bill Mazeroski, Kirk Gibson, Carlton Fisk and Joe Carter, to name a few - but Thomson's shot stands as the giant among them all.

The tall, lanky and self-effacing Thomson, however, was stunned that in a lineup that included future Hall of Famers Willie Mays and Monte Irvin, he would hit the pennant-winning homer. He called himself "the accidental hero."

Thomson never quite understood all the fuss the homer cre-

ated. On its 40th anniversary in 1991, he said, "I can't believe we're still talking about it."

"Bobby Thomson will always hold a special place in our game for hitting one of the signature home runs in baseball history. 'The Shot Heard 'Round the World' will always remain a defining moment for our game, illustrating the timeless quality of the national pastime," commissioner Bud Selig said.

The home run decided one of the most memorable pennant

races, and later led to one of its most-debated questions: Did he know Branca was going to throw the high-and-inside fastball that Thomson hit out of the park?

More than a half-century later, it was revealed the Giants during the season had used a buzzer-and-telescope system to steal signals from opposing catchers. Helped by the inside information, the Giants overcame a 13 1/2-game deficit to the Dodgers, won 37 of their final 44 games and forced a playoff.

Thomson always insisted he did not know what pitch was coming when he connected. Branca was never quite so sure.

For years, Thomson and Branca appeared together at functions of all kinds, a modern-day Abbott & Costello act, their retelling of the moment filled with fine-tuned comic touches and playful jabs. Often, Branca would prompt Thomson to claim more of the credit.

Only one thing was missing from their act: the home run ball itself. The prize remains an elusive souvenir, with several people claiming to have it but no one able to prove.

"We did award shows, dinners, autograph shows, golf outings, maybe five or six a year," Branca said.

Thomson moved south about five years ago to be closer to one of his daughters. Branca said he

hadn't seen him for a couple of years.

Long after the Giants and Dodgers left town and moved west, Thomson remained a recognized figure on New York streets. Taxi drivers, office workers and pedestrians of a certain age would stop him or call out his name—the old Giants fans cheered, the Dodgers crowd, not so much.

Thomson hit a career-high 32 home runs in 1951, and his shot on Oct. 3 sent the Giants into the World Series the next day. He hit a mere .238 without a home run as his team lost in six games to the crosstown New York Yankees, who were in the midst of winning a record five straight crowns.

The luster from Thomson's shot, though, never dimmed. There was even a funny postscript, provided by the great Yogi Berra.

Berra and some of his Yankees teammates attended Game 3 of the Dodgers-Giants playoff, eager to see which team they would face. But after Brooklyn scored three times in the eighth inning for a 4-1 lead, Berra decided he'd seen enough and wanted to beat the late-afternoon traffic.

Yep, it's true. The man who coined the phrase "it ain't over till it's over" thought it was over and actually left the Polo Grounds and was driving home when Thomson homered.



NEW YORK
(AP)—CC Sabathia

was dominant at home again and Nick Swisher had a two-run single, leading the New York Yankees to a 6-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday night.

Curtis Granderson homered against his former team and Robinson Cano connected from the cleanup spot for New York. Cano moved up a spot in the order because Alex Rodriguez sat out after experiencing soreness in his left calf and leaving the Yankees' loss to Detroit on Monday night. An MRI on Tuesday revealed a low-grade strain and he is day to day.

Brett Gardner had two hits, scored twice and stole a base from the leadoff spot a night after making an aggressive slide into second base in an attempt to break up a game-ending double play. Tigers second baseman Carlos Guillen injured his knee on the play and sat out Tuesday. There was no retaliation, though.

Sabathia (16-5) became the AL's first 16-game winner and improved to 14-0 in his last 19 regular-season starts at home, a streak that began with seven scoreless innings against his opponent Tuesday, Justin Verlander, on July 18, 2009.

Rays 10, Rangers 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Matt Garza scattered five hits over his seven scoreless innings for his

Sabathia dominates at home; Yanks beat Tigers, 6-2

first win since pitching a no-hitter late last month and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Texas Rangers 10-1 on Tuesday night.

Garza (12-7) went 0-2 in three starts after throwing Tampa Bay's first no-hitter in a 5-0 victory over Detroit on July 26. The right-hander, who had 10 strikeouts and two walks, struck out AL batting leader Josh Hamilton with runners on second and third to end the third.

Twins 7, White Sox 6, 10 innings

At Minneapolis, Jim Thome hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning against the team that decided not to bring him back this season, sending Minnesota to a victory over Chicago that stretched its AL Central lead to four games.

After Delmon Young's lead-off single against Matt Thornton (3-4), Thome smashed an 0-1 pitch and sent it sailing over the right-field bleachers to send his new team and the fans at sold-out Target Field into a frenzy.

Red Sox 6, Angels 0

At Boston, Ryan Kalish hit his first career grand slam and Clay Buchholz pitched seven sharp innings to lead Boston over Los Angeles.

Darnell McDonald also homered for the Red Sox, hitting one over the Green Monster and through the back windshield of a Toyota parked on the top floor of the garage across Lansdowne Street.

Athletics 6, Blue Jays 2

At Oakland, California, Dallas Braden pitched three-hit ball for seven innings, Jack Cust (notes) drove in the go-ahead run and Oakland ended a four-game losing streak by beating Toronto.

Coco Crisp had three hits and an RBI, Daric Barton, and Mark Ellis each drove in a run and the A's won for the 11th time in 16 home games.

Mariners 4, Orioles 0

At Baltimore, Luke French took a one-hitter into the eighth inning and substitute starter Matt Tuiasosopo homered and drove in four runs to lead Seattle past Baltimore.

Tuiasosopo had an RBI double in the fifth and a three-run homer in the ninth. He started in place of Ryan Langerhans, who was a late scratch with a severe headache.

Tuiasosopo came into the game with a .155 batting average, one homer and two RBIs in 71 at-bats.

Royals 2, Indians 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Zack Greinke pitched six strong innings and Wilson Betemit and Yuniesky Betancourt homered as Kansas City beat Cleveland.

Greinke, who won the 2009 AL Cy Young Award, is 7-3 in his past 12 starts after starting the season 1-8. Greinke (8-11) held the Indians to one run and

five hits over six innings, lowering his ERA to 3.90.

Braves 10, Nationals 2

At Atlanta, Diory Hernandez sparked Atlanta with a pinch-hit homer, All-Star Martin Prado (notes) returned from the disabled list with three hits and Mike Minor claimed his first big league win, 10-2 over Washington on Tuesday night.

Coming off their majors-best 20th victory on the final swing, the first-place Braves didn't need any dramatics beginning a series against the lowly Nationals.

Reds 6, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Paul Janish hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the seventh inning and Bronson Arroyo (notes) overcame Kelly Johnson's early two-run homer to pitch into the eighth, helping Cincinnati open a crucial 12-game road trip.

Arroyo (13-7) rallied after giving up Johnson's 19th homer two batters into the game and Scott Rolen had two of his three RBIs on a ninth-inning single to push Cincinnati 17 games over .500 (68-51) for the first time since finishing the 1999 season 99-67.

Dodgers 6, Rockies 0

At Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw pitched seven strong innings against a team he continues to dominate at home as Los Angeles returned from a

humiliating road trip.

Kershaw (11-7) allowed five hits, struck out six and walked three. The 22-year-old left-hander has not allowed a run against the Rockies in the last 26 innings he's pitched against them at Dodger Stadium.

Padres 1, Cubs 0

At Chicago, Jon Garland pitched seven innings and Jerry Hairston Jr. scored the game's only run for San Diego.

The NL-West leading Padres won for the eighth time in nine games and moved five games ahead of the second-place San Francisco Giants.

Heath Bell pitched a scoreless ninth for his major league-leading 36th save in 39 opportunities, but not before nearly allowing a game-ending two-run home run in the ninth to Blake DeWitt.

Brewers 3, Cardinals 2

At St. Louis, Dave Bush pitched six stingy innings to bounce back from a start in which allowed four consecutive home runs, and Casey McGehee hit a two-run homer for Milwaukee.

Albert Pujols homered for the eighth time in 14 games, leading off the fourth with his 31st of the season and 397th of his career. The Cardinals managed only three more singles against Bush (6-10) and have lost three in a row to NL Central also-rans, including a pair of losses to the Cubs.

Phillies 9, Giants 3

At Philadelphia, Roy Oswalt pitched seven sharp innings and Placido Polanco had four hits for Philadelphia.

The Phillies took a one-game lead over San Francisco in the NL wild-card race. The two-time NL champions entered 2 1/2 games behind Atlanta in the East.

Pat Burrell homered in his first regular-season game at Citizens Bank Park since the Phillies won the 2008 World Series.

Marlins 6, Pirates 0

At Pittsburgh, Ricky Nolasco pitched six shutout innings for the second consecutive start and Florida snapped a four-game losing streak.

Nolasco (14-8) extended his road winning streak to seven games and won for the fifth time in six starts overall. He allowed five hits—all singles—and a walk with nine strikeouts. Nolasco also went 2 for 3 and drove in two runs.

Astros 4, Mets 3

At Houston, Hunter Pence had a three-run homer in the first inning and his go-ahead solo shot in the eighth inning gave Houston the win.

The game was tied 3-3 before Pence's shot to left field put Houston on top.

David Wright hit a solo home run in the eighth inning for his first RBI since July 31 to tie it at 3-all. Wright's homer was off Mark Melancon (1-0).

CNMI Team at the 7th Micronesians Games Tennis Competition

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



From left, Bobby Cruz, Peter Loyola, and Todd Montgomery enjoy a light moment after advancing to the semifinals of the men's singles.



Peter Loyola serves against Guam's Justin Dugan during their men's singles quarterfinals game.



Coach Jeff Race, puts an ice bag on Kana Aikawa's shoulder during a break in the latter's match against Palau's Abigail Gbewonyo.



Mayuko Arriola, right, gets a hug from coach Jeff Race after the former won her match against a Palau player.



Jeff Race returns to Guam's Wendell Roden during their quarterfinal match in the men's singles.



Mayuko Arriola prepares to serve during the CNMI women's team's game against Palau in the 7th Micronesians Games tennis competition at the Palau Pacific Resort.



Above, Kana Aikawa goes for a backhand return.



Right, Jodel Fernandez serves while Lydia Tan looks at their Palauan foes during the women's doubles game in the team event.



Bobby Cruz hits a volley.



**Favre is back
in Minnesota**

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**Famed home
run hitter
Bobby Thomson
dead at 86**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010

Cage belles deliver beyond expectations

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Women's Nationals may have failed to win the gold medal in the 7th Micronesian Games, but making it to the finals was already a big achievement for a team that was not even considered to advance to the medal round.

"There were several people who told me that the gold medal game would be Guam versus Palau. My only response was 'I don't think so,'" coach Bill Sewell said.

Sewell and his wards proved their doubters wrong when the CNMI Women's Nationals went on to play Guam in the finals, following a semifinal win against Palau, 61-58. Before that important semis victory, the CNMI lost to Palau by 17 points, 47-64. The CNMI, which had only Connie Camacho as its seasoned player, then defeated Chuuk and the Marshall Islands before bowing to Guam to finish the pool play with a 2-2 record.

In the playoffs, the third seeded CNMI was pitted against the second seeded and home crowd favorite Palau, while Guam drew a bye in the first

round and had to wait for the winner of the Marshalls-Chuuk tiff. Guam went on to win the gold after topping the CNMI, 78-33.

"As soon as I saw the schedule I let the coaching staff and the players know that I wanted to play Palau in the semifinal game. Palau was over-rated, they had several girls who were not in shape to play basketball and they were one dimensional on defense," Sewell said.

In the semis, facing the host team and its throngs of supporters, the CNMI withstood the pressure of the crucial match, controlling the game from the opening tip and surviving Palau's repeated comeback bids in the homestretch.

"In the semifinals, Lia Rangamar and Lalaine Pagarao stepped up. They changed the game against Palau early when they drew eight fouls from Palau's big ladies in the first quarter. They changed the way Palau played the rest of the game," said Sewell, who also acknowledged the significant improvement Lily Williams had shown during the tournament.

"Lily Williams gave us some solid offense

See CAGE on Page 26



21 join NMIFA basic referee clinic



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Northern
Mariana
Islands
Football

Association hosted the first three sessions of the basic football referee clinic last week, drawing 21 participants from various clubs on Saipan.

The attendees include Jerishwin Angeles, Marc Mora, Woo Seok Choi, Kenneth Domingo, John Sario, Roding Domingo, Andres Halaby, Hannah Schorr, Jose Jacinto, Joven Cruz, Jessica Bigueras, Aldritz Buensalido, Edgardo Macario, Don Cabrera, Fradel Sedillo, Merlie Tolentino, Andrew Moses, Anna Manibusan, Ruselle Zapanta, and Adam Whitty. NMIFA president Jerry Tan also attended the clinic that ran from Aug. 12 to 14 and will conclude this Saturday.

See 21 on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the NMIFA basic referee clinic attend the practical and theoretical sessions of the class last week.

CNMI All-Stars absorb second straight loss

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



After losing their first game in the Little League Senior Division World Series, 4-8, to San Nicholas, Aruba, the CNMI Senior All-Stars could not bounce back, even after a day's rest, as they were shut out, 0-11, in five innings by the U.S. west

representative from Manhattan Beach, California yesterday in Bangor, Maine.

Since CNMI has accrued only four runs in its first two games, its chances of advancing to the semifinals are now very slim. Even if CNMI wins its last two matches, by rule the total number of runs will dictate which team wins the tiebreaker.

The CNMI plays its third match against the U.S. central team from Holmes County,

Ohio today at 1pm (eastern standard time). Holmes County absorbed a shutout loss to California yesterday, putting the still undefeated U.S. west team at the top of the pool with a total of eighteen runs in three games. The Aruba sluggers sit in second with two wins and a loss, but the second place tiebreaker is virtually theirs after blowing out the Ohio squad, 17-1, yesterday. Ohio rests in third

See CNMI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Lalaine Pagarao challenges the defense of Guam players during their gold medal game in the 7th Micronesian Games at the Palau National Gymnasium on Aug. 10.

Team 4 Fun wins Brothers in Arms softball tourney



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ken Kalen of Duck Fat waits for the pitch during the Brothers in Arms Fundraising Softball Tournament held last weekend at Capital Hill Ballfield.

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Team 4 Fun defeated Bang Bros in the finals, 23-11, to win the Brothers In

Arms Fundraiser Softball Tournament held last weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Team 4 Fun advanced to the championship game after downing Bang Bros in the semifinals of the winner's bracket, 24-16.

Bang Bros then dropped to the loser's bracket, and had to pull off a close win against the third place team Duck Fat, 24-23, to march to the finals and get another shot at Team 4 Fun.

In the finals of the double-elimination tournament, Team 4 Fun was given the twice-to-beat advantage. Bang Bros then forced a deciding Game 2 when it won Game 1, 31-19. In the rubber match, Team 4 Fun came out the winner this time and was awarded softball bags provided by Marpac.

The softball tournament aimed at raising funds for the Brothers in Arms softball team, which will compete in the 6th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament. See TEAM 4 FUN on Page 26